

WELCOME TO ST JOSEPH'S RC CHURCH & ST NINIAN'S RC CHURCH



PASTOR'S DESK

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PARISH ACTIVITIES

Our Sunday Masses:
Vigil Mass: 5.00pm in St Ninian's RC Church
Sunday Mass:
 9.30am in St. Ninian's RC Church
 11am in St Joseph's RC Church

Daily Masses
St Ninian's RC Church:
 Tuesday; 6pm
 Wednesday; 10am
 Friday; 10am.
St Joseph's RC Church:
 Wednesday; 6pm
 Thursday; 10am
 Saturday; 10am
Holy Days of Obligation:
 Vigil Mass: 5.00pm in St Ninian's RC Church
Day Masses:
 Morning: As announced.
EXPOSITION;
 Saturday; 10.30am to 11am in St Joseph's Church
 Friday; 10.30am to 11am in St. Ninian's Church

Birthday Celebrations; 3rd Sunday of the month
Sacrament of Reconciliation - Confession
 St Ninian; Saturday 4.15 to 4.45pm.
 St. Joseph; Saturday 10.30am.

Newsletter



HOLY WEEK REFLECTION

Holy Week is the most sacred time in the Christian calendar, a profound journey that invites us to walk closely with Jesus through the final days of His earthly life. It begins with Palm Sunday, when Christ enters Jerusalem in humility, welcomed with joy, yet moving steadily toward His Passion. This week is not merely a remembrance of past events; it is a living encounter with the mystery of God's love. At the heart of Holy Week is the revelation of sacrificial love. On Holy Thursday, we reflect on the Last Supper, where Jesus gives Himself in the Eucharist and teaches us the meaning of service by washing the feet of His disciples. It is a call to love with humility and generosity. Good Friday confronts us with the reality of suffering and the depth of Christ's obedience. On the Cross, Jesus bears the weight of sin and human brokenness, offering forgiveness and reconciliation. It is a solemn reminder that love is costly, yet powerful enough to redeem and restore. Holy Saturday is a quiet day of waiting, inviting us into silence and trust. It teaches us that even in moments when God seems absent, He is at work, preparing new life. Finally, Easter Vigil bursts forth with hope and victory. The Resurrection proclaims that death does not have the final word. Light conquers darkness, and life triumphs over death. Holy Week, therefore, is an invitation: to die to sin, to embrace the Cross, and to rise with Christ into new life. It calls us to deeper faith, renewed hope, and a more committed love.

HOLY WEEK ACTIVITIES

Days	St. Ninian	St. Joseph
Palm Sunday	9:30am Mass	11:00am Mass
Holy Thursday	5:00pm Mass	7:30pm Mass
Good Friday	3:00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion	6:00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Holy Saturday	10am Blessing of Food (Polish Community) 8:00pm Easter Vigil Mass	10:30pm Easter Vigil Mass
Easter Sunday	9:30am Mass	11:00am Mass



Sunday 29 March 2026.

Palm Sunday •

Liturgical Colour: Red. Year: A(II).

Readings at Mass

This gospel is read at the procession with palms before Mass.

- **Note:** At the appropriate hour, a gathering takes place at a suitable space other than inside the church to which the procession will go. The faithful hold branches in their hands.
- Introduction and blessing of the palm branches by the priest
- The gospel reading and very brief homily
- The procession into the church(The altar servers followed by the priest. Then the faithful follow)

First reading

Isaiah 50:4-7 •

‘I hid not my face from disgrace, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.’

The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of those who are taught,
that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary.

Morning by morning he awakens;
he awakens my ear

to hear as those who are taught.

The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;

I turned not backwards.

I gave my back to those who strike,
and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard;

I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting.

But the Lord GOD helps me;

therefore I have not been disgraced;

therefore I have set my face like a flint,

and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22(21):8-9. 17-18a. 19-20. 23-24. R2a

My God, my God, why have you forsaken 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, for in him he delights.’

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

For dogs have surrounded me;

a band of the wicked besets 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 forsaken me?

They divide my clothing among them,

they cast lots for my robe.

But you, O LORD, do not stay afar off;

my strength, make haste to help me!

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

I will tell of your name to my kin,

and praise you in the midst of the assembly;

‘You who fear the LORD, give him praise;

all descendants of Jacob, give him glory;

revere him, all you descendants of Israel.’

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

Second reading

Philippians 2:6-11 •

‘He humbled himself, therefore God has highly exalted him.’

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation

Philippians 2:8-9

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Christ became for us obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him

and bestowed on him the name that is above every name.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Matthew 26:14-27:66

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Key: N. Narrator. ✠ Christ. S. Speaker or speakers other than Christ.

N. At that time: One of the Twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,

S. What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?

N. And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.

Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying,

S. Where would you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?

N. He said,

✠ Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’

N. And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

When it was evening, he reclined at table with the Twelve. And as they were eating, he said,

✠ Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.

N. And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another,

S. Is it I, Lord?

N. He answered,
 ✕ He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.
 N. Judas, who would betray him, answered,
 S. Is it I, Rabbi?
 N. He said to him,
 ✕ You have said so.
 N. Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said,
 ✕ Take, eat; this is my body.
 N. And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying,
 ✕ Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.
 N. And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,
 ✕ You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.
 N. Peter answered him,
 S. Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.
 N. Jesus said to him,
 ✕ Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.
 N. Peter said to him,
 S. Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!
 N. And all the disciples said the same.
 Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples,
 ✕ Sit here, while I go over there and pray.
 N. And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them,
 ✕ My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.
 N. And going a little further he fell on his face and prayed, saying,
 ✕ My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.
 N. And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter,
 ✕ So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.
 N. Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed,
 ✕ My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.
 N. And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. Then he came to the disciples and said to them,
 ✕ Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.

N. While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the Twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'The one I will kiss is the man; seize him.' And he came up to Jesus at once and said,
 S. Greetings, Rabbi!
 N. And he kissed him. Jesus said to him,
 ✕ Friend, do what you came to do.
 N. Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him. And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. Then Jesus said to him,
 ✕ Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?
 N. At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,
 ✕ Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.
 N. Then all the disciples left him and fled.
 Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. And Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end. Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward and said,
 S. This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'
 N. And the high priest stood up and said,
 S. Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?
 N. But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him,
 S. I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.
 N. Jesus said to him,
 ✕ You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.
 N. Then the high priest tore his robes and said,
 S. He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your judgement?
 N. They answered,
 S. He deserves death.
 N. Then they spat in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, saying,
 S. Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?
 N. Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said,
 S. You also were with Jesus the Galilean.
 N. But he denied it before them all, saying,
 S. I do not know what you mean.
 N. And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders,

S. This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.
 N. And again he denied it with an oath:
 S. I do not know the man.
 N. After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter,
 S. Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you.
 N. Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear,
 S. I do not know the man.
 N. And immediately the cock crowed. And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, 'Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly.
 When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. And they bound him and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate the governor.
 Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, saying,
 S. I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.
 N. They said,
 S. What is that to us? See to it yourself.
 N. And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said,
 S. It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since it is blood money.
 N. So they took counsel and bought with them the potter's field as a burial place for strangers. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken by the prophet Jeremiah, saying, 'And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him on whom a price had been set by some of the sons of Israel, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me.'
 Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him,
 S. Are you the King of the Jews?
 N. Jesus said,
 ✠ You have said so.
 N. But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate said to him,
 S. Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?
 N. But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.
 Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them,
 S. Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?
 N. For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. Besides, while he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him,
 S. Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream.
 N. Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor again said to them,
 S. Which of the two do you want me to release for you?

N. And they said,
 S. Barabbas.
 N. Pilate said to them,
 S. Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?
 N. They all said,
 S. Let him be crucified!
 N. And he said,
 S. Why? What evil has he done?
 N. But they shouted all the more,
 S. Let him be crucified!
 N. So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,
 S. I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.
 N. And all the people answered,
 S. His blood be on us and on our children!
 N. Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.
 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying,
 S. Hail, King of the Jews!
 N. And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.
 As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying,
 S. You who would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.
 N. So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying,
 S. He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'
 N. And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.
 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying,
 ✠ Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?
 N. that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'
 And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said,
 S. This man is calling Elijah.
 N. And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. But the others said,
 S. Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.

N. And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

All kneel for a period of silence.

N. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said,

S. Truly this was the Son of God!

N. There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,

S. Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’ Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead’, and the last fraud will be worse than the first.

N. Pilate said to them,

S. You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.

N. So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

Bidding Prayers

Priest’s Introduction:

As we begin the solemn celebration of the Lord’s Passion on this Palm Sunday, let us turn to God our Father with confidence and present our prayers for the Church and for the whole world.

1. For the Church:

That the Church may faithfully accompany Christ in his suffering and proclaim the hope of the Resurrection to all nations.

Lord, hear us.

2. For the Holy Father, bishops, priests, and all who lead God’s people:

That they may guide the faithful through the journey of Holy Week with wisdom, humility, and courage.

Lord, hear us.

3. For world leaders and those in authority:

That they may seek peace, justice, and reconciliation among nations, following the example of Christ the humble King.

Lord, hear us.

4. For those who suffer:

For the sick, the lonely, the poor, and those burdened by sorrow, that they may find comfort in the suffering Christ who walks with them.

Lord, hear us.

5. For our community gathered here:

That as we carry palms and acclaim Jesus as our King, we may also remain faithful to him in times of difficulty and sacrifice.

Lord, hear us.

6. For young people and families:

That they may grow in faith and walk closely with Christ during this Holy Week.

Lord, hear us.

7. For the faithful departed:

That through the passion and death of Christ they may share fully in the joy of his Resurrection.

Lord, hear us.

Priest’s Conclusion:

Heavenly Father, you sent your Son to suffer and die for our salvation. Hear the prayers we offer with faith and lead us through the cross to the glory of the Resurrection. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reflection

Today we begin Holy Week with the celebration of Palm Sunday. At the beginning of the Gospel, we see Jesus entering Jerusalem in triumph. The people welcome him with joy, waving palm branches and shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.” They recognize him as king and savior.

Yet only a few days later, the same crowd will cry out, “Crucify him.” The celebration quickly turns into rejection. This dramatic change invites us to reflect on our own faith. It is easy to praise Jesus when everything is going well in our lives. But the real question is: will we remain faithful to him when the path becomes difficult?

Palm Sunday teaches us that the way of Christ is not a path of earthly power or glory. Jesus entered Jerusalem humbly, riding on a donkey. His kingship is revealed not in domination but in love, sacrifice, and service. The Passion we hear today shows us the depth of that love—Jesus willingly accepts suffering and death for our salvation.

As we hold our palms today, we are reminded that following Christ means more than joyful celebration. It means walking with him through the suffering of the cross so that we may also share in the glory of the resurrection.

During this Holy Week, let us remain close to Jesus, faithful not only in words but also in our lives.

Thursday 2 April 2026

Maundy Thursday - Evening Mass •

Liturgical Colour: White. Year: A(II).

Readings at Mass

These are the readings for the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper.

NOTE: On this day, the “Glory be to God in the highest” is being said. While the hymn is being sung, bells are rung, and when it is finished, they remain silent until the “Glory be to God in the highest” of the easter vigil.

First reading

Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14 •

Ordinances for the Passover meal.

In those days: The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ‘This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers’ houses, a lamb for a household. And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his nearest neighbour shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male, a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats, and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

‘Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it.

‘In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD’s Passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.

‘This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations, as a statute for ever, you shall keep it as a feast.’

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 116(115):12-13. 15, 16bc. 17-18. R̄ cf. 1 Corinthians 10:16

The cup of blessing is a communion in the blood of Christ.

How can I repay the LORD
for all his goodness to me?
The cup of salvation I will raise;
I will call on the name of the LORD.

The cup of blessing is a communion in the blood of Christ.

How precious in the eyes of the LORD
is the death of his faithful.

Your servant am I, the son of your handmaid;
you have loosened my bonds.

The cup of blessing is a communion in the blood of Christ.

I will offer a thanksgiving sacrifice;
I will call on the name of the LORD.
My vows to the LORD I will fulfil
before all his people.

The cup of blessing is a communion in the blood of Christ.

Second reading

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 •

‘For as often as you eat and drink, you proclaim the Lord’s death.’

Brothers and Sisters: I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you; that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, ‘This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Gospel Acclamation

John 13:34

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.
A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord,
that you love one another, just as I have loved you.
Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Gospel

John 13:1-15

He loved them to the end.

Before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it round his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped round him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, ‘Lord, do you wash my feet?’ Jesus answered him, ‘What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterwards you will understand.’ Peter said to him, ‘You shall never wash my feet.’ Jesus answered him, ‘If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.’ Simon Peter said to him, ‘Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!’ Jesus said to him, ‘The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you.’ For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, ‘Not all of you are clean.’

When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, ‘Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought

to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.'

- **HOMILY**
- **THE WASHING OF FEET follows (Hymns are sung while this is going on)**
- **No creed. The bidding Prayers follow**

BIDDING PRAYERS

Priest:

Dear brothers and sisters, as we celebrate the sacred evening when our Lord instituted the Holy Eucharist and the priesthood, let us bring our prayers before God with confidence.

1. For the Church:

That the Church throughout the world may faithfully celebrate the mystery of the Eucharist and bear witness to Christ's love through humble service.

Lord, hear us.

2. For the Holy Father, bishops, and priests:

That they may be strengthened in their ministry as servants of God's people and remain faithful stewards of the mysteries of Christ.

Lord, hear us.

3. For all Christians:

That, following the example of Christ who washed the feet of his disciples, we may grow in humility, love, and service to one another.

Lord, hear us.

4. For those who suffer:

For the sick, the lonely, the poor, and those burdened by sorrow, that the presence of Christ may bring them comfort and hope.

Lord, hear us.

5. For peace in the world:

That God may guide leaders of nations to work for justice, reconciliation, and lasting peace among all peoples.

Lord, hear us.

6. Eco Prayer:

For our common home, the earth: that we may be good stewards of God's creation, protecting the environment and caring for all living things with gratitude and responsibility.

Lord, hear us.

7. For our parish community:

That this celebration of the Lord's Supper may deepen our love for the Eucharist and strengthen our unity as the Body of Christ.

Lord, hear us.

Priest's Conclusion:

Heavenly Father, on this holy night your Son gave us the gift of the Eucharist and the commandment of love. Hear the prayers we offer and help us to live as faithful disciples of Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

- Then the offertory procession (liturgy of the eucharist)
- Then the transfer of the most blessed sacrament to the altar of repose

- After a brief adoration, the priest and ministers go back to the altar to strip the altar
- The congregation is encouraged to keep watch with Christ for at least 30 minutes before the church is locked.

Reflection

Tonight we enter into one of the most sacred moments of our faith. On this holy evening, Jesus gathered with his disciples for the Last Supper. In this moment, he gave the Church three great gifts: the Eucharist, the priesthood, and the commandment of love.

First, Jesus gave us the Eucharist. Taking bread and wine, he said, "This is my body... this is my blood." From that moment, Christ made himself present for us in every Mass. The Eucharist is not just a symbol; it is the living presence of Christ who nourishes and strengthens us on our journey of faith.

Second, Jesus gave us the priesthood. When he said, "Do this in memory of me," he entrusted the apostles with the mission of celebrating the Eucharist and serving God's people. Through the priesthood, Christ continues to feed his Church with his Body and Blood.

Finally, Jesus taught us the meaning of true love by washing the feet of his disciples. This humble act shows that greatness in the kingdom of God is found in service. To follow Christ means to serve others with humility and compassion.

Tonight, as we celebrate this sacred meal, may we deepen our love for the Eucharist and learn to live the commandment Jesus gives us: "Love one another as I have loved you."

Friday 3 April 2026

Good Friday •

Liturgical Colour: Red. Year: A(II).

Readings at Mass

There is no Mass today. The readings given here are used in the afternoon celebration of the Lord's Passion.

Introduction: The priest and the deacon wearing red vestments as for mass, go to the altar in silence (No entrance hymn) and after prostrating themselves, pray in silence for a while. The congregation Kneels

Then the priest, with the ministers goes to his chair facing the people, while extending his hands prays the collect

FIRST PART

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First reading

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

‘He was pierced for our transgressions.’

Behold, my servant shall act wisely.

he shall be high and lifted up,

and shall be exalted.

As many were astonished at him —

his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance,

and his form beyond that of the children of mankind —

so shall he sprinkle many nations.

Kings shall shut their mouths because of him,

for that which has not been told them they see,

and that which they have not heard they understand.

Who has believed what he has heard from us?

And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

For he grew up before him like a young plant,

and like a root out of dry ground.

he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,

and no beauty that we should desire him.

He was despised and rejected by men,

a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

and as one from whom men hide their faces

he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Surely, he has borne our griefs

and carried our sorrows.

yet we esteemed him stricken,

smitten by God, and afflicted.

But he was pierced for our transgressions.

he was crushed for our iniquities.

upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,

and with his wounds we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray.

we have turned — everyone — to his own way.

and the LORD has laid on him

the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,

yet he opened not his mouth.

like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,

and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,

so, he opened not his mouth.

By oppression and judgement, he was taken away.

and as for his generation,

who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living,

stricken for the transgression of my people?

And they made his grave with the wicked

and with a rich man in his death,

although he had done no violence,

and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him.

he has put him to grief.

when his soul makes an offering for guilt,

he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days.

the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

Out of the anguish of his soul, he shall see and be satisfied.

by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,

make many to be accounted righteous,

and he shall bear their iniquities.

Therefore, I will divide him a portion with the many,

and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,

because he poured out his soul to death

and was numbered with the transgressors.

yet he bore the sin of many,

and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 31(30):2, 6. 12a-d. 12e-13. 15-16. 17, 25. R Luke 23:46

Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

In you, O LORD, I take refuge.

Let me never be put to shame.

In your justice, set me free.

Into your hands I commend my spirit.

You will redeem me, O LORD, O faithful God.

Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

Because of all my foes

I have become a reproach,

an object of scorn to my neighbours

and of fear to my friends.

Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

Those who see me in the street,

they flee from me.

I am forgotten, like someone dead,

and have become like a broken vessel.

Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

But as for me, I trust in you, O LORD.
I say, 'You are my God.
There in your hands is my lot,
from the hands of my enemies deliver me
and from those who pursue me.'

Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

'Let your face shine on your servant.
Save me in your merciful love.'
Be strong, let your heart take courage,
all who hope in the LORD.

Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

Second reading

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

'He learned obedience and became the source of salvation to all who obey him.'

Brothers and Sisters: Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.

Gospel Acclamation

Philippians 2:8-9

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Christ became for us obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.

Therefore, God has highly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name that is above every name.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

John 18:1-19:42

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Key: N. Narrator. ✠ Christ. S. Speaker or speakers other than Christ.

N. At that time: Jesus went out with his disciples across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them,

✠ Whom do you seek?

N. They answered him,

S. Jesus of Nazareth.

N. Jesus said to them,

✠ I am he.

N. Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, 'I am he', they drew back and fell to the ground. So he asked them again,

✠ Whom do you seek?

N. And they said,

S. Jesus of Nazareth.

N. Jesus answered,

✠ I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go.

N. This was to fulfil the word that he had spoken: 'Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one.' Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. So Jesus said to Peter,

✠ Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the father has given me?

N. So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound him. First they led him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. The servant girl at the door said to Peter,

S. You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?

N. He said,

S. I am not.

N. Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus answered him,

✠ I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me what I said to them; they know what I said.

N. When he had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying,

S. Is that how you answer the high priest?

N. Jesus answered him,

✠ If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike me?

N. Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him,

S. You also are not one of his disciples, are you?

N. He denied it and said,

S. I am not.

N. One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked,
S. Did I not see you in the garden with him?
N. Peter again denied it, and at once a cock crowed.
Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. So Pilate went outside to them and said,
S. What accusation do you bring against this man?
N. They answered him,
S. If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you.
N. Pilate said to them,
S. Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.
N. The Jews said to him,
S. It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death.
N. This was to fulfil the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.
So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him,
S. Are you the King of the Jews?
N. Jesus answered,
✠ Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?
N. Pilate answered,
S. Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you up to me. What have you done?
N. Jesus answered,
✠ My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.
N. Then Pilate said to him,
S. So you are a king?
N. Jesus answered,
✠ You say that I am a king. For this purpose, I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world — to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.
N. Pilate said to him,
S. What is truth?
N. After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them,
S. I find no guilt in him. But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?
N. They cried out again,
S. Not this man, but Barabbas!
N. Now Barabbas was a robber.
Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. They came up to him, saying,
S. Hail, King of the Jews!
N. and struck him with their hands. Pilate went out again and said to them,
S. See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him.

N. So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them,
S. Behold the man!
N. When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out,
S. Crucify him, crucify him!
N. Pilate said to them,
S. Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him.
N. The Jews answered him,
S. We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God.
N. When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus,
S. Where are you from?
N. But Jesus gave him no answer. So Pilate said to him,
S. You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?
N. Jesus answered him,
✠ You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore, he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin.
N. From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out,
S. If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar.
N. So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgement seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews,
S. Behold your King!
N. They cried out,
S. Away with him, away with him, crucify him!
N. Pilate said to them,
S. Shall I crucify your King?
N. The chief priests answered,
S. We have no king but Caesar.
N. So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.
So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of the Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.' Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate,
S. Do not write, 'The King of the Jews', but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'
N. Pilate answered,
S. What I have written I have written.
N. When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier: also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, so they said to one another,
S. Let us not tear it but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.

N. This was to fulfil the Scripture which says, ‘They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.’ So the soldiers did these things, but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother,

✠ Woman, behold, your son!

N. Then he said to the disciple,

✠ Behold, your mother!

N. And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfil the Scripture),

✠ I thirst.

N. A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said,

✠ It is finished,

N. and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

All kneel for a period of silence.

N. Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness — his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth — that you also may believe. For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: ‘Not one of his bones will be broken.’ And again, another Scripture says, ‘They will look on him whom they have pierced.’

After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about thirty-five kilograms in weight. So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

- A brief Homily
- Then Solemn Bidding Prayers

BIDDING PRAYERS (SOLEMN INTERCESSIONS)

The Prayer of the Faithful (Solemn Intercessions)

The prayer is sung in the simple tone or, if the invitations *Let us pray* and *Let us stand* are used, in the solemn tone. Let us pray, dearly beloved, for the holy Church of God, that our God and Lord be pleased to give her peace,

to guard her and to unite her throughout the whole world and grant that, leading our life in tranquility and quiet, we may glorify God the Father almighty.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:

Almighty ever-living God,
who in Christ revealed your glory to all the nations,
watch over the works of your mercy,
that your Church, spread throughout the whole world,
may persevere with steadfast faith
in confessing your name.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

II. For the Pope

Let us pray also for our most Holy Father Pope N.,
that our God and Lord,
who chose him for the Order of Bishops,
may keep him safe and unharmed for the Lord’s holy
Church,
to govern the holy people of God.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:

Almighty ever-living God,
by whose decree all things are founded,
look with favor on our prayers
and in your kindness protect the Pope chosen for us,
that, under him, the Christian people,
governed by you their maker,
may grow in merit by reason of their faith.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

III. For all orders and degrees of the faithful

Let us pray also for our Bishop N.,
for all Bishops, Priests and Deacons of the Church
and for the whole of the faithful people.
Let us pray also for all Bishops, Priests and Deacons of the
Church
and for the whole of the faithful people.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:

Almighty ever-living God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is sanctified and governed,
hear our humble prayer for your ministers,
that by the gift of your grace
all may serve you faithfully.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

IV. For catechumens

Let us pray also for our catechumens,
that our God and Lord
may open wide the ears of their inmost hearts
and unlock the gates of his mercy,
that, having received forgiveness of all their sins
through the waters of rebirth,
they, too, may be one with Christ Jesus our Lord.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:

Almighty ever-living God,
who make your Church ever fruitful with new offspring,
increase the faith and understanding of our catechumens,
that, reborn in the font of Baptism,

they may be added to the number of your adopted children.

Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

V. For the unity of Christians

Let us pray also for all our brothers and sisters who believe in Christ, that our God and Lord may be pleased, as they live the truth, to gather them together and keep them in his one Church.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:

Almighty ever-living God, who gather what is scattered and keep together what you have gathered, look kindly on the flock of your Son, that those whom one Baptism has consecrated may be joined together by integrity of faith and united in the bond of charity. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

VI. For the Jewish people

Let us pray also for the Jewish people, to whom the Lord our God spoke first, that he may grant them to advance in love of his name and in faithfulness to his covenant.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:

Almighty ever-living God, who bestowed your promises on Abraham and his descendants, graciously hear the prayers of your Church, that the people you first made your own may attain the fullness of redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

VII. For those who do not believe in Christ

Let us pray also for those who do not believe in Christ, that, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, they, too, may enter on the way of salvation.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:

Almighty ever-living God, grant to those who do not confess Christ that, by walking before you with a sincere heart, they may find the truth and that we ourselves, being constant in mutual love and striving to understand more fully the mystery of your life, may be made more perfect witnesses to your love in the world. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

VIII. For those who do not believe in God

Let us pray also for those who do not acknowledge God, that, following what is right in sincerity of heart, they may find the way to God himself.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:

Almighty ever-living God, who created all people to seek you always by desiring you and, by finding you, come to rest, grant, we pray, that despite every harmful obstacle, all may recognize the signs of your fatherly love and the witness of the good works done by those who believe in you, and so in gladness confess you, the one true God and Father of our human race. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

IX. For those in public office

Let us pray also for those in public office, that our God and Lord may direct their minds and hearts according to his will for the true peace and freedom of all.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:

Almighty ever-living God, in whose hand lies every human heart and the rights of peoples, look with favor, we pray, on those who govern with authority over us, that throughout the whole world the prosperity of peoples, the assurance of peace, and freedom of religion may through your gift be made secure. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

X. For those in tribulation

Let us pray, dearly beloved, to God the Father almighty, that he may cleanse the world of all errors, banish disease, drive out hunger, unlock prisons, loosen fetters, granting to travelers safety, to pilgrims return, health to the sick, and salvation to the dying.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:

Almighty ever-living God, comfort of mourners, strength of all who toil, may the prayers of those who cry out in any tribulation come before you, that all may rejoice, because in their hour of need your mercy was at hand. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

SECOND PART

THE ADORATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

The priest or deacon, carrying the cross accompanied by two ministers with lighted candle in procession from the sacristy goes through the entrance of the church to the middle of the aisle

He uncovers a little of the upper part of the cross, elevates it while singing the:

Priest: Ecce Lignum Crucis, in quo salus mundi pependit

ALL: Venite Adoremus

All Kneel

Then follows the adoration of the Holy Cross. First by the priests and ministers. Then followed by the congregation. The choir sings along

THIRD PART

HOLY COMMUNION

DISMISSAL

The post communion prayer is said, and all, after genuflecting to the cross, depart in silence

Please DEPART IN SILENCE

REFLECTION

Today the Church stands in silence before the mystery of the cross. Good Friday invites us to reflect on the suffering and death of our Lord, **Jesus Christ**. At first, the cross appears to be a sign of defeat, pain, and humiliation. Yet for us Christians, it has become the greatest sign of love and salvation.

Jesus did not go to the cross because he was powerless. He went to the cross because he loved us. He willingly accepted suffering so that humanity might be reconciled with God. Every wound he received, every insult he endured, reveals the depth of God's mercy toward us. The cross shows us how far God is willing to go to save his people.

Good Friday also invites us to look honestly at our own lives. The cross reminds us that sin is real and that it causes suffering in the world. Yet it also tells us that sin never has the final word. God's love is always greater than our weakness.

When we venerate the cross today, we are not simply remembering an event that happened long ago. We are responding to Christ's love here and now. We are invited to place our burdens, our sins, our fears, and even our sufferings at the foot of the cross.

The message of Good Friday is simple but powerful: love conquers hatred, forgiveness overcomes sin, and hope rises even in the darkest moment.

As we gaze upon the cross today, may we remember that it is not the end of the story. Beyond the cross lies the promise of new life and resurrection.

EASTER VIGIL (HOLY SATURDAY)

Saturday 4 April 2026

Readings at Mass

First Part: *The blessing of the fire and preparation of the candle.* A blazing fire is prepared in a suitable place outside the church. When the people are gathered there, the priest approaches with the ministers, one of whom carries the paschal candle.

The procession: When the candle has been lit, one of the ministers takes burning coals from the fire and places them in the thurible, and the priest puts incense into it in the usual way. The priest or deacon takes the paschal candle and a procession forms. The thurifer with the smoking thurible precedes the priest or deacon who carries the paschal candle. After them follows the priest with the ministers and the people, all holding in their hands unlit candles.

At the door of the church the priest/deacon, standing and raising up the candle, sings

PRIEST: LUMEN CHRISTI

ALL RESPOND: DEO GRATIAS

Moving forward to the middle of the church and arriving at the altar, he repeats the LUMEN CHRISTI respectively.

THE EASTER PROCLAMATION (EXSULTET)

Arriving at the Altar, the priest sings the Exsultet (While the congregation remains standing)

**SECOND PART:
LITURGY OF THE WORD**

TAKE NOTE: After each reading, all stand for prayer.

A Reading from the book of Genesis

Genesis 1:1-2:2 ·

'God saw everything that he had made and it was very good.'

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

And God said, 'Let there be light', and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, 'Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' And God made the firmament and separated the waters that were under the firmament from the waters that were above the firmament. And it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, 'Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and

the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

And God said, 'Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.' And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, 'Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, and let them be lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. And God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. And God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, 'Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the firmament of the heavens.' So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds — livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.' And it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock, and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the heavens, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.' And God said, 'Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the heavens, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.

Psalm

Ps 104(103):1-2a. 5-6. 10, 12. 13-14. 24, 35c. Ref.30

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

Bless the LORD, O my soul!
O LORD my God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and honour,
wrapped in light as with a robe!

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

You set the earth on its foundation,
immovable from age to age.
You wrapped it with the depths like a cloak;
the waters stood higher than the mountains.

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
they flow in between the hills.
There the birds of heaven build their nests;
from the branches they sing their song.

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

From your dwelling you water the mountains;
by your works the earth has its fill.
You make the grass grow for the cattle
and plants to serve mankind's need,
that he may bring forth bread from the earth.

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

How many are your works, O LORD!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your creatures.
Bless the LORD, O my soul.

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

A Reading from the book of Exodus

Exodus 14:15-15:1

The people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground.

In those days: The LORD said to Moses, 'Why do you cry to me? Tell the people of Israel to go forward. Lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the people of Israel may go through the sea on dry ground. And I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they shall go in after them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, his chariots, and his horsemen. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.'

Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel. And there

was the cloud and the darkness. And it lit up the night without one coming near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the people of Israel went into the midst of the sea on dry ground, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left. The Egyptians pursued and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. And in the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic, clogging their chariot wheels so that they drove heavily. And the Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from before Israel, for the LORD fights for them against the Egyptians.'

Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.' So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its normal course when the morning appeared. And as the Egyptians fled into it, the LORD threw the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the horsemen; of all the host of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea, not one of them remained. But the people of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters being a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD.

Canticle

Ex 15:1-2. 3-4. 5-6. 17-18. R1a

Hymn of victory after crossing the Red Sea

Let us sing to the LORD, glorious his triumph.

Let us sing to the LORD who has gloriously triumphed;
horse and rider he has hurled into the sea.

The LORD is my strength and might;
he has become my salvation.

This is my God, and I will praise him,
my father's God, and I will exalt him.

Let us sing to the LORD, glorious his triumph.

The LORD is a warrior;
the LORD is his name.

The chariots of Pharaoh and his army
he has cast into the sea.

Let us sing to the LORD, glorious his triumph.

The waters of the flood covered over them;
they went down to the depths like a stone.
Your right hand, O LORD, majestic in power;
your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.

Let us sing to the LORD, glorious his triumph.

You will bring them in and plant them
upon the mount of your inheritance:
the place which you, O LORD, have made your dwelling,
the holy place, O LORD, that your hands have established.
The LORD will reign for ever and ever.

Let us sing to the LORD, glorious his triumph.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 54:5-14

'With everlasting love the Lord, your Redeemer, will have compassion on you.'

'Your Maker is your husband,
the LORD of hosts is his name;
and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer,
the God of the whole earth he is called.

For the LORD has called you
like a wife deserted and grieved in spirit,
like a wife of youth when she is cast off,
says your God.

For a brief moment I deserted you,
but with great compassion I will gather you.
In overflowing anger for a moment
I hid my face from you,
but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you,'
says the LORD, your Redeemer.

'This is like the days of Noah to me:
as I swore that the waters of Noah
should no more go over the earth,
so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you,
and will not rebuke you.

For the mountains may depart
and the hills be removed,
but my steadfast love shall not depart from you,
and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,'
says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

'O afflicted one, storm-tossed and not comforted,
behold, I will set your stones in antimony,
and lay your foundations with sapphires.
I will make your pinnacles of agate,
your gates of carbuncles,
and all your wall of precious stones.
All your children shall be taught by the LORD,
and great shall be the peace of your children.
In righteousness you shall be established;
you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear;
and from terror, for it shall not come near you.'

Psalm

Ps 30(29):2, 4. 5-6. 11, 12a,13b. R2a

I will extol you, LORD, for you have raised me up.

I will extol you, LORD, for you have raised me up,
and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.
O LORD, you have lifted up my soul from Sheol,
restored me to life from those who sink into the pit.

I will extol you, LORD, for you have raised me up.

Sing psalms to the LORD, you faithful ones;
give thanks to his holy name.
His anger lasts a moment; his favour all through life.
At night come tears, but dawn brings joy.

I will extol you, LORD, for you have raised me up.

Hear, O LORD, and have mercy on me;
be my helper, O LORD.
You have changed my mourning into dancing.
O LORD my God, I will thank you for ever.

I will extol you, LORD, for you have raised me up.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 55:1-11 ·

‘Come to the waters; hear, that your soul may live.’

Thus says the LORD:

‘Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and he who has no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without
price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?

Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me;

hear, that your soul may live;

and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know,
and a nation that did not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of
Israel,

for he has glorified you.

‘Seek the LORD while he may be found;

call upon him while he is near;

let the wicked forsake his way,

and the unrighteous man his thoughts;

let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion
on him,

and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,

neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth,

so are my ways higher than your ways

and my thoughts than your thoughts.

‘For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven

and do not return there but water the earth,

making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;

it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,

and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.’

Canticle

Is 12:2-3. 4b-d. 5-6. R3

The rejoicing of a redeemed people

With joy will you draw water from the springs of salvation.

Behold, God is my salvation!

I will trust, and will not be afraid;

for the LORD is my strength and my praise,

and he has been my salvation.

With joy will you draw water

from the springs of salvation.

With joy will you draw water from the springs of salvation.

Give thanks to the LORD, invoke his name;

make known among the peoples his deeds;

proclaim that his name is exalted.

With joy will you draw water from the springs of salvation.

Sing to the LORD for he has wrought wonders;

let this be known through all the earth.

Shout aloud and sing praise, you who dwell in Sion,

for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

With joy will you draw water from the springs of salvation.

A Reading from the prophet Baruch

Baruch 3:9-15, 32-4:4 ·

‘Walk towards the shining light of the Lord.’

Hear the commandments of life, O Israel; give ear and
learn wisdom! Why is it, O Israel, why is it that you are in
the land of your enemies, that you are growing old in a
foreign country, that you are defiled with the dead, that
you are counted among those in Hades? You have
forsaken the fountain of wisdom. If you had walked in the
way of God, you would be dwelling in peace for ever.
Learn where there is wisdom, where there is strength,
where there is understanding, that you may at the same
time discern where there is length of days and life, where
there is light for the eyes and peace. Who has found her
place? And who has entered her storehouses? But he who
knows all things knows her, he found her by his
understanding. He who prepared the earth for all time
filled it with four-footed creatures; he who sends forth the
light, and it goes, called it, and it obeyed him in fear; the
stars shone in their watches and were glad; he called them,
and they said, ‘Here we are!’ They shone with gladness for
him who made them. This is our God; no other can be
compared to him! He found the whole way to knowledge
and gave her to Jacob his servant and to Israel whom he
loved. Afterwards she appeared upon earth and lived
among humans.

This is the book of the commandments of God and the law
that endures for ever. All who hold her fast will live, and
those who forsake her will die. Turn, O Jacob, and take
her; walk towards the shining of her light. Do not give
your glory to another or your advantages to an alien
people. Happy are we, O Israel, for we know what is
pleasing to God.

Psalm

Ps 19(18):8. 9. 10. 11. R 10b or John 6:63c

O Lord, you have the words of eternal life.

The law of the LORD is perfect;
it revives the soul.
The decrees of the LORD are steadfast;
they give wisdom to the simple.

O Lord, you have the words of eternal life.

The precepts of the LORD are right;
they gladden the heart.
The command of the LORD is clear;
it gives light to the eyes.

O Lord, you have the words of eternal life.

The fear of the LORD is pure,
abiding for ever.
The judgements of the LORD are true;
they are, all of them, just.

O Lord, you have the words of eternal life.

They are more to be desired than gold,
than quantities of gold.
And sweeter are they than honey,
than honey flowing from the comb.

O Lord, you have the words of eternal life.

All stand for prayers

After the prayer, the altar candles are lit, and the priest intones the Gloria which is taken up by all, while bells are rung.

After the Gloria, the priest says the collect (Prayer) and all sit to listen to the reading from the New Testament.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Romans 6:3-11 ·

‘Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again.’

Brothers and Sisters: Do you not know that all of us who have been baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? We were buried, therefore, with him by baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

After the reading, all rise, then the priest solemnly intones the ALLELUIA three times.

Then the choir/ people intones the Alleluia which they are conversant with.

Ps 118(117):1-2. 16-17. 22-23. R24

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Give praise to the LORD, for he is good;
his mercy endures for ever.
Let the house of Israel say,
‘His mercy endures for ever.’

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The LORD’s right hand is exalted.
The LORD’s right hand has done mighty deeds.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount the deeds of the LORD.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
By the LORD has this been done,
a marvel in our eyes.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 28:1-10

‘He has risen and he is going before you to Galilee.’

After the Sabbath, towards the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.’ So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, ‘Greetings!’ And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.’

At the end of the gospel, All sit for the Homily

REFLECTION

Tonight the Church keeps watch before the empty tomb. In the darkness we lit the new fire, and from that flame the Paschal candle was raised. This light tells the story of God who never abandons his people. From creation to the exodus, from the prophets to the cross, God has been guiding humanity toward life.

Tonight we hear the astonishing news: the stone is rolled away, Christ is risen. Death does not have the final word.

For those entering the Church and for all of us, this vigil is a beginning. In baptismal grace we rise with Christ to walk in new life. Let us leave this night carrying his light into our homes, our wounds, and our world, trusting that the risen Lord goes before us always, calling us from darkness into hope, into mercy, into life everlasting.

Sunday 5 April 2026

Easter Sunday •

Liturgical Colour: White. Year: A(II).

Readings at Mass

First reading

Acts 10:34a, 37-43 •

‘We ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.’

In those days: Peter opened his mouth and said: ‘You yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and caused him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 118(117):1-2. 16-17. 22-23. R24

*This is the day the LORD has made;
let us rejoice in it and be glad.
or: Alleluia.*

Give praise to the LORD, for he is good;
his mercy endures for ever.
Let the house of Israel say,
‘His mercy endures for ever.’

*This is the day the LORD has made;
let us rejoice in it and be glad.
or: Alleluia.*

The LORD’s right hand is exalted.
The LORD’s right hand has done mighty deeds.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount the deeds of the LORD.

*This is the day the LORD has made;
let us rejoice in it and be glad.
or: Alleluia.*

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
By the LORD has this been done,
a marvel in our eyes.

*This is the day the LORD has made;
let us rejoice in it and be glad.
or: Alleluia.*

Second reading

Colossians 3:1-4 •

‘Seek the things that are above, where Christ is.’

Brothers and Sisters: If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Sequence

Victimae Paschali Laudes

Christians, to the Paschal Victim
offer sacrifice and praise.

The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;
and Christ, the undefiled,
hath sinners to his Father reconciled.

Death with life contended:
combat strangely ended!

Life’s own Champion, slain,
yet lives to reign.

Tell us, Mary:
say what thou didst see
upon the way.

The tomb the Living did enclose;
I saw Christ’s glory as he rose!

The angels there attesting;
shroud with grave-clothes resting.

Christ, my hope, has risen:
he goes before you into Galilee.

That Christ is truly risen
from the dead we know.
Victorious king, thy mercy show!

Gospel Acclamation

1 Corinthians 5:7b-8a

Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed;
let us therefore celebrate the festival in the Lord.
Alleluia.

Gospel

John 20:1-9

‘He must rise from the dead.’

On the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.’ So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going towards the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the

linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on the head of Jesus, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

Solemn Blessing

May almighty God bless you
through today's Easter Solemnity
and, in his compassion,
defend you from every assault of sin.
Amen.

And may he, who restores you to eternal life
in the Resurrection of his Only Begotten,
endow you with the prize of immortality.
Amen.

Now that the days of the Lord's Passion have drawn to a close,
may you who celebrate the gladness of the Paschal Feast
come with Christ's help, and exulting in spirit,
to those feasts that are celebrated in eternal joy.
Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever.
Amen.

EASTER REFLECTION

Today we celebrate the heart of our faith: the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The sorrow of Good Friday has given way to the joy of Easter morning. The tomb is empty. Death has been conquered. Hope is alive again.

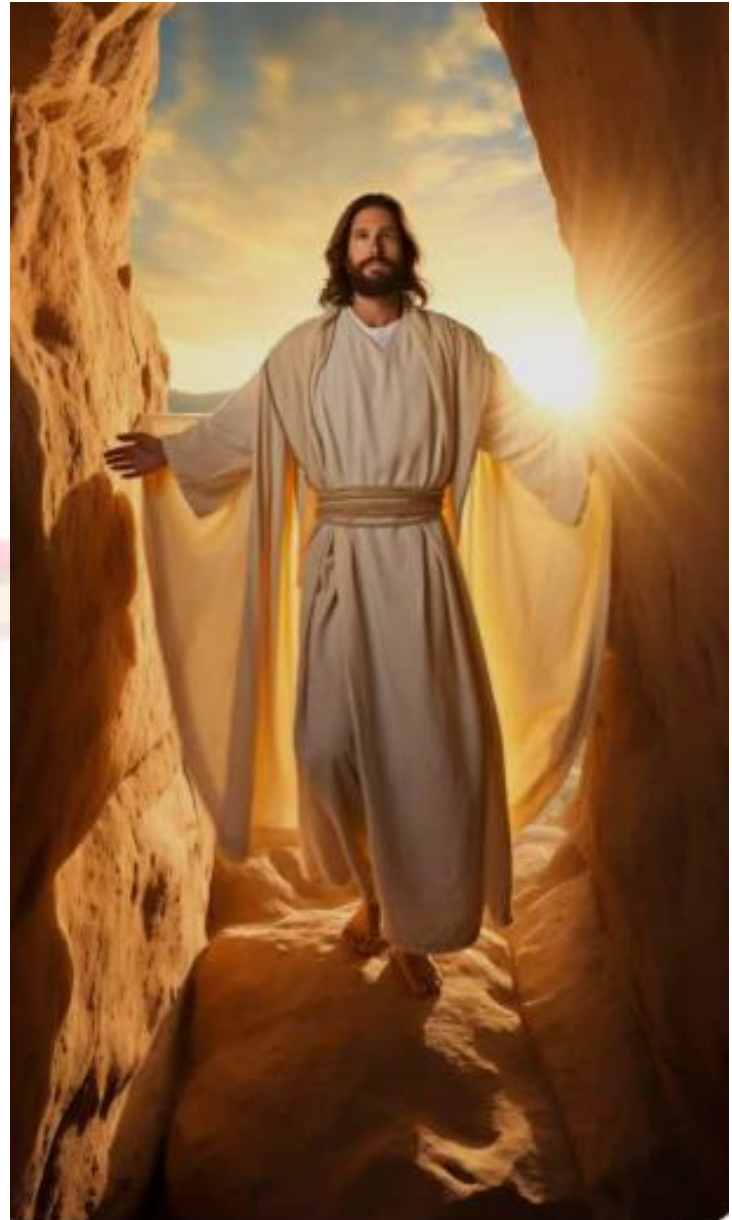
The Gospel tells us that the disciples went to the tomb expecting to find a body, but instead they encountered a mystery—an absence that spoke louder than presence. Christ was no longer there because He had risen. This changes everything. The Resurrection is not just an event in the past; it is a living reality that continues to transform our lives today.

Easter reminds us that no darkness is permanent. In our own lives, we experience “tombs”—moments of fear, failure, sin, disappointment, and even grief. Sometimes we feel stuck, as if nothing can change. But the message of Easter is clear: God can bring life out of death, light out of darkness, and hope out of despair.

Like Mary Magdalene, we are invited to seek the Lord even when we do not fully understand. Like Peter and John, we are called to run toward the mystery, to believe even when the signs seem confusing. Faith in the Resurrection means trusting that God is at work, even when we cannot see the full picture.

The risen Christ also sends us on a mission. “Go and tell,” the angel says. We are called to be witnesses of hope in a world that often feels broken. Our words, our actions, our love—these become signs that Christ is truly alive.

Dear brothers and sisters, Easter is not just a day; it is a new way of living. Let us rise with Christ. Let us leave behind our fears and embrace the new life He offers. Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is truly risen! Alleluia!



ALLELUIA!!!