



ST. MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP PARISH
UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS



PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION YEAR B 28 MARCH 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Six days before Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they carried palm branches and with a loud voice cried out:

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed are you, who have come in abundant mercy!

O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! Who is this king of glory? He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-7

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle.

The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:6-11

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.

THE GOSPEL: Mark 14:1-15:47

...So Pilate, anxious to placate the crowd, released Barabbas for them and, having ordered Jesus to be scourged, handed him over to be crucified. The soldiers led him away to the inner part of the palace, that is, the Praetorium, and called the whole cohort together. They dressed him up in purple, twisted some thorns into a crown and put it on him. And they began saluting him, Hail, king of the Jews! They struck his head with a reed and spat on him; and they went down on their knees to do him homage. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the purple and dressed him in his own clothes. They enlisted a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means the place of the skull. They offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he refused it. Then they crucified him, and shared out his clothing, casting lots to decide what each should get. It was the third hour when they crucified him. The inscription giving the charge against him read: 'The King of the Jews.' And they crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left.

...When the sixth hour came there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which means, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood by heard this, they said Listen, he is calling on Elijah. Someone ran and soaked a sponge in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink, saying: Wait and see if Elijah will come to take him down. But Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. **ALL KNEEL AND PAUSE FOR A MOMENT.** And the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The centurion, who was standing in front of him, had seen how he had died, and he said, In truth this man was a son of God.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.

COMMENTARY: Guerric of Igny (1080-1157)

In the procession the people meet Jesus with palm branches, in the passion they slap him in the face and strike his head with a rod. In the one they extol him with praises, in the other they heap insults upon him. In the one they compete to lay their clothes in his path, in the other he is stripped of his own clothes. In the one he is welcomed to Jerusalem as a just king and saviour, in the other he is thrown out of the city as a criminal, condemned as an impostor. In the one he is mounted on a donkey and accorded every mark of honour; in the other he hangs on the wood of the cross, torn by whips, pierced with wounds, and abandoned by his own. If, then, we want to follow our leader without stumbling through prosperity and through adversity, let us keep our eyes upon him, honoured in the procession, undergoing ignominy and suffering in the passion, yet unshakably steadfast in all such changes of fortune. Lord Jesus, you are the joy and salvation of the whole world; whether we see you seated on an ass or hanging on the cross, let each one of us bless and praise you, so that when we see you reigning on high we may praise you forever and ever, for to you belong praise and honour throughout all ages. *Sermon 3 on Palm Sunday 2. 5.*

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS by Fr John:

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, Today we commence the holiest week of the Year. With Christ's entry into Jerusalem remembered before Mass, we then proclaim the Passion of the Lord. With the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening we commence the Easter Triduum: the three days of the Lord's salvific acts that offer us our redemption. The devotional Way of the Cross on Good Friday morning leads in to the stark Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3pm. Not until after the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night can we celebrate any of the Sacraments - for the Lord is in the tomb. The Easter Vigil, recalling how God has saved his faithful down through the Ages, culminates in the Mass of the Lord's Resurrection - continued on Easter Day. As we enter into these celebrations of our Faith, let us entreat the Lord to renew our faith commitment to Him once again. With a mind open to the ongoing Teaching of the Holy Spirit present in our Church, let us embrace the renewal of our discipleship of Jesus Christ, which these celebrations of New Life offer us.

May Holy Week and the Easter Triduum be for all of us a time of prayer and reflection. And may God Bless you all always.
Fr John

Notes from Fr John:

***Please check all the times for this coming week's celebrations, as there are some changes from previous years.

***Although there will be an opportunity for Confession and Reconciliation on Good Friday after the Way of the Cross at Katoomba, this is by way of EXCEPTION. The Church encourages everyone to be reconciled BEFORE the commencement of the Easter Triduum. Please note that there will be Confessions before and after each Weekday Mass for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week. Indeed, we have had the 40 days of Lent to prepare. With the Mass of the Lord's Supper onwards, it is then a time for prayer and reflection.

PONTIFICAL HOLY LAND FRIDAY COLLECTION: 2 April: The annual Pontifical Good Friday Collection will be held on Friday 2 April around Australia. The collection will continue to support the works of the Holy Land Custody through the generosity of the Australian Church. Your donation is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of those who are keeping alive the Christian presence in the land of Jesus in the face of great odds.

HOSPITAL/HOME VISITS: if you or your love ones are sick and would like a visit please contact the parish office or Barbara Davidson 0417 490 103

BISHOP'S GOOD SAMARITAN APPEAL: Thank-you for bringing comfort, faith and hope to the sick and isolated. Bishop Vincent, Parramatta Catholic Foundation, CatholicCare and our chaplains thank you for your kind-hearted generosity and support over the last few weeks. For anyone who hasn't had a chance to donate, please visit your-catholicfoundation.org.au/appeal. Please pray for our CatholicCare chaplains as they carry on the work of Jesus in the footsteps of the Good Samaritan. Thank you for accompanying them on their journey.

PARISH FUNDRAISING: "Easter hamper raffle". Tickets for the Easter Raffle will be available after weekend Masses. There are seven prizes to the value of approximately \$300.00. Tickets are \$5.00 each. Phone Barbra on 47842473 or Matalena 0459656657 if you would like more tickets. Raffle to be drawn Palm Sunday after 10am Mass at St Canice's.

ADORATION CHAPEL: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Monday shifts. Dear Adorers, your adoration shift will be impacted on the above days. Adoration will finish at 7pm, on Holy Thursday night. There will be Mass following at Katoomba then adoration. The chapel will remain closed until 10:30am Easter Monday, following the 10am Mass and continue as usual (to sum it up, all shifts from 7pm Holy Thursday, all Good Friday, and all Saturday are cancelled. First shift back is 10:30am Easter Monday). Please find a replacement as usual if you will be away, and let me know if you have any questions. Have a blessed day!

SUNDAY MASS: Due to an easing of covid-19 restrictions you no longer need to book to come to Sunday Mass. You will still, however, need to sign on when you arrive and observe social distancing requirements. Attendance is on a first come first served basis. Masks are recommended but no longer required.

ALTAR SERVERS: If you would like to serve contact Hugh Jones on 0402 904 681.

ROSARY AND OTHER DEVOTIONS: Ad Jesum per Mariam.

SAT and SUN: 4:10pm, Leura.
MON: after 8:30am Mass, Katoomba.
TUE: 4:30pm Divine Mercy, Rosary and Exposition, Leura.
WED: after 8:30am Mass, Wentworth Falls.
THU: after 8:30am Mass, Leura.
FRI: 11:30am before Mass, Katoomba.
FRI: 5pm Divine Mercy Hour, Leura.
SAT: 8:30am before Mass and also after Benediction following Mass, Katoomba.
ADORATION CHAPEL: 9am Monday - 9am Saturday, Katoomba.



SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Leura 5pm (Saturday)
Wentworth Falls 8am
Katoomba 10am (1st Sunday: High Mass. 4th: w/ choir)
Leura 5pm
*10am on public holidays

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

MON: 8:30am* Katoomba
TUE: 5:15pm Leura
WED: 8:30am W-Falls
THU: 8:30am Leura
FRI: 12pm Katoomba
SAT: 9am Katoomba

CONFESSION TIMES

TUE 4:45-5:00pm Leura
SAT: 9:30am Katoomba
SAT: 4:30-4:45pm Leura
Confessions are always available on request.

SAINTS THIS WEEK: Ora pro nobis.

THU: Holy Thursday 7pm at Katoomba.
FRI: Good Friday 3pm at Katoomba.
SAT: Easter Vigil 730pm at Katoomba.
NEXT WEEK
SUN: Easter Sunday 8am W-Falls, 9am Leura, 10:30am Kat.
MON: Easter Monday 10am at Katoomba.

MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS: DECEASED and ANNIVERSARIES: NONI ROWLAND, MORAN WILLIAM HALLIDAY, BILL CLIFFORD, FR MICK O' CALLAGHAN, STEPHANNIE JEAN MURPHY (2nd April), MARIE THUEZ, BISHOP BEDE HEATHER, MITCHELL GALE, and all the faithful departed especially those for whom you requested prayers and masses AND THE FORGOTTEN SOULS IN PURGATORY. **SICK LIST:** Eleanor Hagar, Monique Haulber, Mary Sullivan, Kathleen Hayes-Gilson, Evelyn Maw, Wanda Heffernan, Mary Roberts, Jacquelin Singh, Kath Paine, June Way, Robert Sullivan, Natale Assanti, Susan Keegel, Eugenio Natonton, Emiliana Santiago, Pat Coyne, Inga Morphet, Amanda Peters, Alison Michaels, Aimee De la Motte, Lorraine Russelle, Margaret Murphy, Joan Nolan, Pat Wolthers, Tricia Hogan, Shiela Page, Sr Jeanie Heining, Michelle Scully, Julie Walss, Edwin Wulff

PARISH OFFICE: 158 Katoomba Street, Katoomba 2780
Postal Address: P.O. Box 526, Katoomba NSW 2780
Phone: (02) 4782 2804 Hours: 10am-3pm Tuesday-Friday.
Parish Email address: bluemountains@parracatholic.org
After Hours Emergency Number: 0428 878 810 Calls only; no

Weddings: Please call Parish Office for details. Baptisms: upon request.
Parish Website at: www.bluemountainscatholic.org.au
Parish Facebook: www.facebook.com/bluemountainscatholic
Parish School: St Canice's Catholic Primary School, Katoomba.
Principal: Ms. Miriam Meaney



~THE STATIONS~

HISTORY, INDULGENCES AND HOW TO.

The Stations or Way of the Cross, also known as the Way of Sorrows, is a devotion which first arose among the Christians in Jerusalem, out of veneration for those sacred spots which were sanctified by the sufferings of our Lord. From the Holy City, this devout exercise was introduced into Europe.

When, in 1342, the Franciscan Fathers established their house in Jerusalem, and undertook the custody of the sacred places of the Holy Land, they began to spread throughout the Catholic world the exercise of the Stations of the Cross. This devotion has met with the repeated approvals of the Holy See, and is enriched with indulgences.

How does one gain an indulgence? To gain a partial indulgence, one must have the intention of gaining the indulgence, carry out the exercise (explained later) and be free from mortal sin. To gain a plenary indulgence, aside from what is said above, one must receive Sacramental Confession (having not even an attachment to venial sin, let alone mortal) and Holy Communion, and pray for the intentions of the Pope (at least one Our Father and one Hail Mary).

Confession, Communion and prayers for the Pope's intentions can be carried out within 20 days before or after the exercise. Only one plenary indulgence may be gained a day. A single sacramental confession can suffice for gaining several plenary indulgences.

So how does one carry out the exercise, that is, pray the Stations? The Church's official book on indulgence states that:

1. The pious exercise must be made before stations of the Way of the Cross legitimately erected.
2. To erect the Way of the Cross, fourteen crosses are needed, to which it is customary to attach a picture or image representing the fourteen stations of Jerusalem.

3. According to common custom, the pious exercise consists of fourteen devotional readings, to which some vocal prayers are added. To make the Way of the Cross, however, it is sufficient to meditate devoutly on the Lord's Passion and Death, and therefore reflection on the particular mysteries of the individual stations is not necessary.

4. Progression from one station to the next is required. If the pious exercise is made publicly, and moving from station to station by all participants is not possible without inconvenience, it is sufficient that at least the one conducting the Way of the Cross progress from station to station, while the others remain in their place.

Quoted from: Enchiridion Indulgentiarum 4th edition, 1999, Apostolic Penitentiary.

You can pray the exercise of the Stations any day of the year, alone or with family and friends. The exercise can even be prayed in parishes.

On Good Friday you will have the opportunity to gain the indulgence in our parish at Wentworth Falls (9:30am), Leura (10am) or Katoomba (10:30am).

The customary stations are as follows:

1. Jesus is condemned to death.
2. Jesus takes up his Cross.
3. Jesus falls for the first time.
4. Jesus meets his Mother.
5. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the Cross.
6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.
7. Jesus falls for the second time.
8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.
9. Jesus falls for the third time.
10. Jesus is stripped of his garments.
11. Jesus is nailed to the Cross.
12. Jesus dies on the Cross.
13. Jesus is taken down from the Cross.
14. Jesus is laid in the tomb.

“Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends (John 15:13).”

Young people can rescue human

love. One of the eyewitnesses to the death of Jesus on the cross is “the disciple whom Jesus loved.” This phrase of John's Gospel proclaimed during the Celebration of the Lord's passion forms the basis for Fr Cantalamessa's homily.

The Preacher of the Pontifical household, Fr Cantalamessa, focused on the eyewitness John who wrote an account of what he witnessed. John not only saw what everyone else saw. “He also saw the meaning of what happened,” Fr Cantalamessa says. He saw the sacrificial Lamb of God, the fulfillment of the Passover, the “new temple of God from whose side (...) flowed the water of life.” John witnessed the release of the Spirit of God who as, in the beginning, “transformed the chaos in the cosmos.”

What does the Cross reveal?

Fr Cantalamessa explains that John understood that Jesus on the cross was revealing God “as he really is, in his most intimate and truest reality.” Later John would express this understanding as “God is love” (1 Jn 4:10), meaning that it is an oblation love, a love that consists in self-giving.” It is only on the cross that God manifests just how far his love will go: “He loved them to the end” (Jn 13:1).

John, a model for the young. John manifests a “real falling in love.” After his encounter with Jesus “everything else suddenly took second place,” Fr Cantalamessa recounts. John's witness can provide a model for the young to realise what Pope Francis invites us to in *Evangelii gaudium*: “I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ” (n. 3).

A mission for the young. It is precisely up to the young “to rescue human love from the tragic drift in which it has ended up,” Fr Cantalamessa proposes. “God revealed himself on the cross as agape, the love that gives itself.” Turning to young people, Fr Cantalamessa explains how they can do this: “it is necessary to prepare yourselves to make a total gift of self to another in marriage, or to God in consecrated life, beginning by making a gift of your time, of your smile, (...) of your lives in the family, in the parish, and in volunteer work,” he says. In this way, young people will learn how to unite eros to agape, he says.

Jesus makes self-giving love possible.

In conclusion, Fr Cantalamessa proclaims that through his grace Jesus makes it possible for us to live self-giving love “to some extent, in our lives.” Today we can tap into this grace through the Church's sacraments by which we come in contact with the water and blood that John saw flowing from Christ's open side, and by weeping “tears of repentance and consolation” when we look on the pierced one.

Vatican News, Good Friday 2018.
By Sr Bernadette Mary Reis fsp.