

Mass Times

Sundays: 9 am & 11 am
Working Holy Days: 10 am & 7.30 pm
Monday to Friday: 10 am
Fr Colin Doocey Adm. Pro Tem



Recently Deceased

Seán Barry, Ashleigh
May the light of heaven surround him always.



HOLY WEEK CEREMONIES 2021

PALM SUNDAY –
Virtual blessing of Palms.

HOLY THURSDAY –
Mass of the Lord's Supper @ 6pm.

GOOD FRIDAY –
Stations of the Cross @ 12noon.
Ceremony of the Passion @ 3pm.



HOLY SATURDAY - Easter Vigil in Cathedral only.

EASTER SUNDAY – Mass at 9am. and 11am.

Holy Week 2021

This year Holy Week will be very different and yet the same in some respects. Last year we were all in a state of shock at the start of the Lockdown and churches were fully closed. We had the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday live streamed from the church but everything else was from the Cathedral. This year, while we cannot gather in the church, the Holy Week ceremonies on Holy Thursday and Good Friday will be celebrated and will be live streamed from the Church. All parishes will turn to the Cathedral on Holy Saturday Night for the Easter Vigil.

People love the Holy Week ceremonies. I often think that it is like having our own personal time of retreat and prayer in a very busy and noisy world. During these days we reach the heart of our faith as we walk with Jesus through the steps of His Passion and Death. It is a beautiful time and hopefully you will be able to join in the ceremonies from St. Michaels via the webcam

Things are the same in that the Holy Week ceremonies are familiar and powerful. While restrictions remain in place and things are difficult, we receive hope and joy during these special days. We need these things more than ever this year. Hopefully, you will be comforted and inspired by the familiar liturgies and powerful imagery of Holy Week.

So, make time for yourself and your family this week and please join in the Holy week ceremonies. May the Lord strengthen us and bring us through these dark days to the light, hope and joy of Easter. St. Michael pray for us.

Fr. Michael

Palm Sunday

You are invited to have a palm branch to hand this weekend for the live streamed Sunday Masses at 9am & 11am to be blessed virtually.

Parish Finance – Thank You

People continue to be very generous to the parish in this difficult times. A sincere word of thanks to parishioners who continue to drop in their weekly offering and once-off donations to the Sacristy and Presbyteries. It's very much appreciated.

We also thank people who are using the 'Donate' facility on the Parish website to support the parish as well. A Donate button is placed on several pages of the website including the Webcam page used for livestreaming Masses. Please continue to support your parish either through a direct contribution to the sacristy or presbyteries or via the Donate Button on the parish website.

Easter Dues

Dues envelopes are available in the church. You support and generosity to the priests is much appreciated in these difficult times. Many thanks.

Trocaire Boxes

Please return your Trocaire Box to the sacristy or the presbyteries during Holy Week.

When you use the newsletter, please take it home with you.

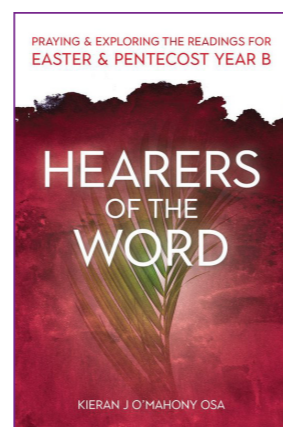
DO NOT RETURN IT TO THE TABLE

Hearers of the Word:

Easter & Pentecost 2021

Volume 6 of the series by Kieran O'Mahony OSA is now available.

Go to www.messenger.ie to order your copy.



Extended Church Opening

From this weekend, St Michaels Church will remain open until 7.00pm

Welcome to St Michaels for Personal Prayer

To maximise the number of people that can join us for Personal Prayer, we have made a number of changes to the church so that we comply with HSE guidelines and keep everyone safe. We have placed **yellow spots** to highlight where people should sit. Follow the Exit signs. We ask that you **do not kneel-down** at anytime. *Many thanks for your help and we hope you all keep well.*



CHURCH CLOSSES AT 7.00 pm

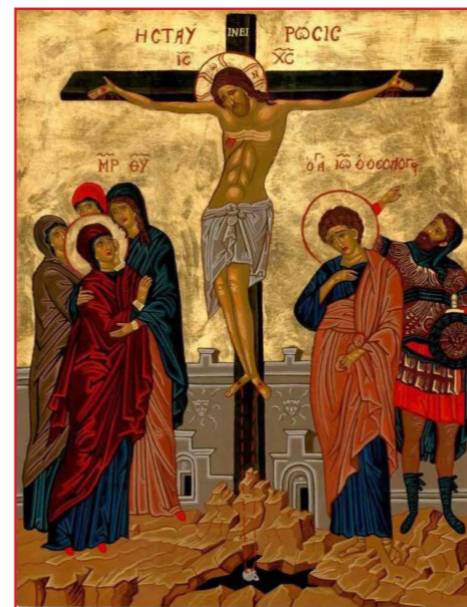
Thoughts

Palm Sunday raises the curtain on the drama of Holy Week, as we celebrate the great events that give us new life in Christ. In spite of the current restrictions, we can still celebrate, albeit in a different way. Whatever we do, the important thing is to get to the heart of the matter: God's extraordinary love for us all. It is a blessing that the Gospel of John is so prominent in Holy Week.

Here's my own compact summary of what the Fourth Gospel teaches about salvation.

The creator God has healed humanity of death by sending his Son in an act of self-emptying and loving service, setting us free from the power of death and sin. God's loving therapy is a new Passover and a new creation, enacted in us by the Holy Spirit.

To explore that extraordinary grace, may I suggest a slow reading of the very first couple of verses of John 13, taken in conjunction with John 19:28-30.



WHAT THE PAPERS SAY...

Irish Catholic (1). Fr. Martin Delaney: Everything we need to know about God is in the Prodigal Son parable. (2). Fruits of 'courageous' papal visit to Iraq already being felt (3) Pope hails Irish missionary spirit as he elevates Knock to international status. (4) Dr. Philip Conzales: We must be vigilant, discerning and watchful over what kind of 'new normal' is appearing on the horizon of our post-Covid world.
Universe/Catholic Times: (1). Fr. Marsden: How one woman affected the Holy Week liturgies. (2) Good Friday collection for Holy Land a concern for Franciscans. (3) Vatican told to get tough over China's human rights abuses (4) 'Alone with my faith': An insightful look into Harry Conrick Jr's musical isolation.
Catholic Voice: (1). Global mourning -- Study finds link between pregnancy loss and mental illness. (2) Mary Kearns: Be of good cheer! (3). Men need St. Joseph.
Tablet of 13/3. Covid 19 Pandemic -- Diaries of a plague year.
Tablet of 6/3. Poet Fiona Benson describes how humiliation & sickness led her to take a different path.

Thoughts

There is a core similarity between the four accounts of the death of Jesus in the New Testament. However, they differ in sequence and in details, allowing various understandings of the cross to unfold. Because the death of Jesus was and is such a deeply mysterious and indeed perplexing event, different dimensions are explored and laid bare by different New Testament writers. None is more stark than Mark's Gospel: all who knew Jesus have failed him; his only "helper" is a complete outsider, Simon, the unknown passer-by. The only acknowledgment comes from the unnamed Gentile soldier, accidentally present.

Prayer

O Lord, we tell again of the death of your Messiah, Jesus the Christ. In his story we see the story of your love as you reach out to us in the darkness of tragic death and tremendous suffering. Touch our hearts again with your compassionate love that we may be return to you with all our hearts.

Reflections

1. Passion of Jesus make it a difficult story to read as good news. Yet in the midst of that cruelty the courageous, faithful and self-sacrificing love that Jesus shows for us shines through. Recall moments when the account of the passion has moved you in a special way. How have you experienced blessing through it?

2. Human love can also be painful. When have you experienced the courage, fidelity and self-sacrifice of others in their love of you? When have you shown that kind of love to others as a parent, a spouse, or a friend or in some other relationship?

3. We read the Passion story in the light of resurrection. What seemed a humiliating and shameful failure for Jesus was not the end of the story. Perhaps with hindsight you can look back on something that seemed like a tragedy at the time but out of that tragedy new life and new possibilities followed for you.

4. For each of us there arise situations in which we feel things are outside our control and we are utterly helpless and powerless. We are not alone in this experience. In his Passion, Jesus is one with us in this human helplessness. When have you found that the presence of another helped you through a crisis? When have you been able to help another with your presence?

PRAYER

O God of eternal glory, you anointed Jesus your servant to bear our sins, to encourage the weary, to raise up and restore the fallen. Keep before our eyes the splendour of the paschal mystery of Christ, and, by our sharing in the passion and resurrection, seal our lives with the victorious sign of his obedience and exaltation. We ask this through Christ, our liberator from sin, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, holy and mighty God for ever and ever. Amen.

K O'Mahony OSA