

God calls us in this Holy Week to follow closely in the path of Jesus, his Son. Let us begin by acknowledging our sinfulness, so we may enter into the mystery of the Lord's death commemorated this week - and rise with him to a changed life and a new hope.

(Normally the blessing of palms and reading of the Palm Sunday Gospel would have taken place in the churchyard, before we processed into church. The Gospel at Mass would have been the Reading of the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (Matt 26), which reminds us that Jesus was put to death only 5 days after he was hailed as 'the King who comes in the name of the Lord.' Space doesn't permit the latter in this bulletin, so the Palm Sunday Gospel is printed after the 2nd reading.)

OPENING PRAYER:

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

LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading – Isaiah 50 v. 4-7 *The Lord's servant, the perfect model of the disciple and the teacher, suffers out of fidelity to his mission.*

'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 - Psalm 21(22):8-9,17-20,23-24

® 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 if this is his friend.' ®

Many dogs have surrounded me
a band of the wicked beset me
They tear holes in my hands and my feet
I can count every one of my bones. ®

They divide my clothing among them
they cast lots for my robe
O Lord do not leave me alone;
my strength, make haste to help me! ®

I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
You, who fear the Lord given him praise; all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons. ®

Second Reading – Philippians 2 v. 6 – 11. *In this passage St. Paul is quoting a hymn which was written within a few years of the Resurrection of Our Lord. It emphasises the obedience and the humility of Christ. And it is precisely for this reason that he is our Lord and Master.*

'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 – Matthew 21 v. 1 - 11. *The story of Christ's entry into Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday*

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

"The Lord has need of them," and he will send them immediately.'

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

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the ass and the colt, and put their garments on them, and he sat thereon. Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road,

and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!' And when he entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying, 'Who is this?' And the crowds said, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth of Galilee.'

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray for all those who are involved in caring for those suffering in the world; doctors, nurses, healthcare and relief workers and for all who support them with their generosity; may they be encouraged by the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray for the Governments of the world that they may be guided when making critical decisions and for all key workers that they may be protected from harm.

We pray for peace in our troubled world, especially to strained relationships, broken homes and war-ridden nations.

We pray for all those who are crucified with Christ through oppression and torture. May the world see in them the face of Christ, whose cross and resurrection set us free.

Let us pray for ourselves and the whole Church of God. May the celebration of the mysteries of Christ during this Holy Week renew us profoundly.

We pray for those in our own country who do not see this week differently from any other. Jesus came to give them new life also. May they have the opportunity to hear his word and take it to heart.

Lord show your closeness and concern to all whose lives are filled with loneliness and anxiety; for all who cannot visit their sick family and friends and the recently bereaved who are unable to take part in the funeral rites of loved ones.

We pray for the sick; for all suffering in the coronavirus pandemic and also for Peter Wyatt, Billy Carter, Michael Denny, Janice Ross, Sarah Ironside, Jessica Mercer and Rebecca Pipe.

We bring to God's love those from whom we are separated by death. We pray for Alice Kay, Geoff Stocker, Albert Harvey, Suzanne Dorsett, Harry Jacks, Percy Hammond, Fr Norman Waring, Fr Wolstan Churchill, David Bailey, Lucie Ardley Bessie Vice, Elizabeth Greany, Lilian Brett, Keith Hammond and Marjorie Stannard whose anniversaries of death are this week.

Before all others in the Church, Mary follows in the footsteps of her Son. Her prayer for us sustains us on our journey. – **Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.**

Father, in a fallen world your Son was perfectly obedient to your will. May his obedience even unto death be for your people now the way to true life. We make our prayer in his name. Jesus the Lord. Amen.

SILENCE

ACT OF SPIRITUAL HOLY COMMUNION

Dear Lord, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. Let nothing ever separate me from you.

Lord God you decreed that the mother of Your Son should stand by his cross, suffering with him. Safeguard in your family the fruits of your great work of redemption and in your goodness make them grow daily more and more through Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANGELUS. †

Fr Philip writes: I regret the church has to be locked, but I continue to offer Mass, Morning and Evening Prayer, the Divine Office and Shrine Prayers daily in the Vicarage. Please join with me in spirit, and try to make the Act of Spiritual Holy Communion each day. Any Prayer requests can be emailed or sent via the website (contact page).

A Thought for Holy Week

Some divers discovered a sunken ship. One of the treasures they found on it was a man's wedding ring. Etched on the wide gold band of the ring was a hand holding a heart. Under it was this moving inscription: **"I have nothing more to give."** This could have been placed on Jesus' cross, for by his death Jesus gave us everything he had. He had nothing more to give us. To what extent have I given to Jesus everything I have? What keeps me from giving him everything?

Mass Readings this week

Fig Monday: Isaiah 42 v 1-7; John 12 v 1-11 *Int: the bereaved*

Temple Tuesday: Isaiah 49 v 1-6; John 13 v 21-33, 36-38 *Int: all who betray friends*

Spy Wednesday: Isaiah 50 v 4-9; Matthew 26 v 14-25 *Int: all priests*

THE TRIDUUM

Maundy Thursday: Exod. 12 v 1-8, 11-14; 2 Corinth. 11 v 23-26; John 13 v 1-15 *Int: all Communicants*

Good Friday: (Day of Fasting & Abstinence) Is 52 v 13-53; Heb 4 v 14-16. 5 v 7-9; John 18 v 1-19, 42 *Int: All, for whom Christ died*

Holy Saturday: Gen 1 v 1-2 v 2; Gen 22 v 1-18; Exodus 14 v 15 -15 v 1; Romans 6 v 3-11; Matt 28 v 1-10. *Int: the Departed; Guild of All Souls*

NEXT SUNDAY –EASTER SUNDAY Acts 10 v 34, 37-43; Colossians 3 v 1-4; John 20 v 1-9

The entire text of daily Mass Readings and the Divine Office with much more devotional material is available on the App 'Universalis' from Google Play or Apple store. £10 one-off payment. (1 mth's free trial poss.)

This link <https://www.sswsh.com/fullposts.php?id=284> gives details of Masses live streamed during Holy Week celebrated by the bishops of Fulham and Chichester and a series of short videos to aid devotion and prayer at home for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day

Please continue to pray for one another and keep in touch using the phone tree or email. Thanks to Richard for being the lynchpin in this.

More is on the following page of the church website:

<https://www.stmarysmendlesham.org.uk/worship-during-current-crisis.html>

We are working on uploading videos of Fr Philip celebrating Mass and will post a link on the website when available. Unfortunately It is unlikely we will be able to livestream for you to follow in real time due to our outmoded computer hardware.