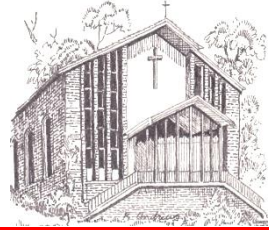




Welcome to the Parish of St Michael Thirroul and Wombarra



27/28 MARCH 2021
PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY ❖ YEAR B
HOLY WEEK    **EASTER TRIDUUM**

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

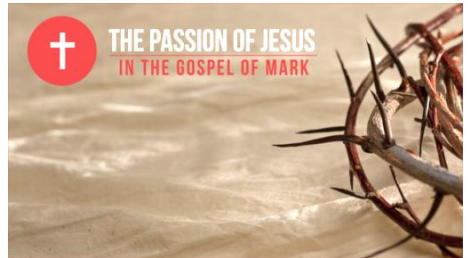
The Small Things and the Great King

In the Gospel, Jesus is acclaimed as King of Israel by a crowd of people as he rides to Jerusalem on a donkey. It is a great triumphal parade, a high point of local fame and popular success for Jesus.

But I want to ask about the donkey.

It's not Jesus' donkey. How did he get it?

The Gospel says Jesus sent his disciples to a neighbouring village to untie it and take it away. But why would anyone let the disciples of Jesus simply make off with somebody else's donkey? As far as that goes, how did Jesus even know a donkey was there in that village?





Here's one possible answer. The Gospel says that Jesus was near Bethany when he sent his disciples to get the donkey. So maybe that donkey was in Bethany. Bethany is the home of Martha and Mary and Lazarus. Like the donkey, which is a humble beast, Martha, Mary, and Lazarus are small and ordinary people. Nobody would acclaim them in great parades. But they are nonetheless the particular friends of Jesus. Maybe the donkey belongs to them or to their friends. Maybe Jesus knows exactly where that donkey is because he has seen it when he was visiting Mary and Martha and Lazarus. Maybe the villagers are so ready to let the disciples of Jesus take the donkey because they know and trust Jesus.

On this way of reading the story, with the people shouting and acclaiming him King, Jesus rides into Jerusalem on the small beast which comes from the village of his particular friends, two ordinary women and their equally ordinary brother.

And here's the sequel. The crowd that acclaims Jesus so greatly is next seen shouting for his crucifixion. That's how much fame and popular success are worth. And here's what particular friendship with the Lord is worth. When Jesus ascends to God the Father, do you know what place he chooses as the site for his ascension? It's Bethany (Luke 24:50), where his friends Mary, Martha, and Lazarus live.

And so, in his royal procession, on that little donkey, our Lord shows us what is truly worth caring about, the small things, the particular things so dear to us and to our great King.

As we come to know the liturgy better, we recognise that it is a masterpiece, wisely shaped over the centuries as the Holy Spirit has guided the Church. Today, as the greatest week of the Church's year begins, the lesson of the liturgy is astoundingly restrained and simple, yet so appropriate. We are reading from Mark's gospel. In his very simple telling of the story the brief acclaim of the entry into Jerusalem is in contrast with the stark horror of  

the story of the passion. The people cry out that ‘the kingdom of our father, David, has come’. How ironic is the way in which these words are to be fulfilled!



The reading from Isaiah invites us to learn from the example of the Saviour – the confidence we should have in our Father in heaven, whatever the trials we may face. But it is something else which makes the reading so appropriate on the threshold of Holy Week – with him we must have minds and hearts open to a new meeting with our God in what lies ahead. Like God’s Servant we should be glad that the Lord ‘wakes us to hear, to listen like disciples’. We are invited to learn something that it is beyond the power of human words to express; to learn anew the astounding generosity of our God as we meet it in the story of the death and resurrection of Jesus – to find how true is the old saying, ‘Actions speak louder than words’.

In the second reading, from the letter to the Philippians – echoing a hymn used in the liturgy of the first generation of the Church – Paul summarises with majestic brevity the drama of what God has done in the Saviour’s **PASCHAL MYSTERY**: how he ‘emptied himself’, shared our human condition, even to ‘accepting death on a cross’, and finally, how he is now ‘raised high’, one with the Father in the glory of the divine name.

The principal reading, of course, is the telling of the story of the Lord’s passion and death, confronting us in Mark’s factual and forthright style, with the cruelty and horror of a horrendous miscarriage of justice. In the darkness which descends upon ‘the whole land’, the rending of the temple veil ‘from top to bottom’, and the confession of the gentile centurion – ‘In truth this man was a son of God!’ – we have the dawning light of the new order of things which will be inaugurated with the Saviour’s resurrection.

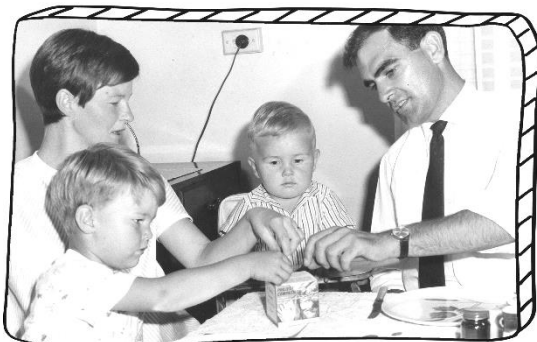
Actions speak louder than words. The age-old custom of preserving the palms from this day’s liturgy is a wonderful reminder of how real was the drama which opened the way to eternal life for the whole world – a drama in which we are all involved. The liturgies of the Church’s coming celebration of the Paschal Mystery will teach us, not with fine oratory, but by recounting the great events in which the divine Truth found expression in our human history. Let this recognition set the tone for our participation in the liturgies of Holy Week.

EASTER TRIDUUM LITURGY TIMES

Holy Thursday	1 April	Mass of the Lord’s Supper	7:30pm
		Night Prayer	9:30pm
Good Friday	2 April	Way of the Cross	10:30am
		Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion	3:00pm
Holy Saturday	3 April	Easter Vigil	7:00pm
Easter Sunday	4 April	Mass of the Resurrection	8:00am

PALM SUNDAY REFUGEE RALLY: 12 NOON SUNDAY

Palm Sunday on 28 March 2021 is an important opportunity to raise awareness of the continuing injustice and cruelty experienced by refugees and people who are seeking asylum. Organized by Refugee Action Collective Illawarra, the annual **Palm Sunday Refugee Rally** will be held at **12noon on Sunday, 28 March, in Wollongong Crown Street Mall Amphitheatre**. All are welcome. ✦ **END INDEFINITE DETENTION** ✦ **BRING THEM HERE** ✦ **ACCEPT THE NEW ZEALAND OFFER** ✦ **GIVE THEM A HOME** Further information ☎ 0409 041 381 <https://aran.net.au/campaigns/palm-sunday-2021/>



For over half a century, generations of Australians have participated in Project Compassion, making it one of the nation's longest running charity campaigns.

Throughout five decades of natural disasters, conflicts and crises, Caritas Australia has worked alongside vulnerable communities with the generous support of Australians. Project Compassion has also helped with access to education, health services, agricultural training and

through programs that reduce maternal and infant mortality.

This year, we have presented five stories from people striving to 'Be More' – just a few amongst the millions who have been helped through Project Compassion.

As we celebrate this Australian icon, we would like to thank generations of supporters nationwide for their generosity, which allows us to move forward with lifesaving strategies to tackle new challenges.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 to help continue empowering vulnerable communities around the world lift themselves and their communities out of poverty. Thank you for your generosity.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413

“Aspire not to have more, but to be more.” – Saint Oscar Romero

MAUREEN FRANCISKOVIC – 22 YEARS OF SERVICE

Maureen Franciskovic has been the “Friday” Parish Secretary for the past 22 years. Maureen will be retiring on **this Thursday, 1 April** – Holy Thursday. As Friday is Good Friday, Maureen will be working 10am to 3pm on Thursday – feel free to call in and say hi to Maureen. **Thank you, Maureen**, for your service to our parishioners and others.

Magda Pires will be taking over from Maureen from Friday, 9 April onwards.



PARISH GARDENS – YOUR GARDENS

The plants in the Parish Gardens will be thinned and pruned during the next couple of weeks so that there is room to plant pansies. **Please help yourself** to any cuttings you may like for your garden. And any herbs, please feel free to take home a supply.



EASTER LITURGIES 2021 ... in our Church this year!

The **Easter Triduum** is the highpoint of the Church's entire liturgical year. It begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, continues with the Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, reaches its high point in the Easter Vigil and closes with Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday. **Liturgies will be recorded: please join us if you can.**

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK – AND BEYOND

Friday	26 Mar	Please bring in palms for Palm Sunday <i>and Rosemary for Good Friday and plastic bottles for water</i>
Weekend	27/28 Mar	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Year B ↳ collect blessed palms from the presbytery verandah
Sunday	28 Mar	Palm Sunday Refugee Rally, 12noon, Crown Street Mall
Monday	29 Mar	Holy Week begins
Thursday	1 Apr	Holy Thursday Parish Office will be open today 10am to 3pm 7:30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper 9:30pm Night Prayer of the Church
Friday	2 Apr	Good Friday 10:30am Way of the Cross 3:00pm Liturgy of the Passion
Saturday	3 Apr	7:00pm Easter Vigil
Sunday	4 Apr	Daylight Saving ends — <i>fall back an hour</i>
Sunday	4 Apr	8:00am Easter Sunday Mass of the Resurrection ↳ collect Easter Water from the presbytery verandah

SURFING SEASON ... BE SAFE

Since 1 July 2020, there have been **4,463** rescues [*last week 4,295*] completed by surf lifesavers, and **15,581** first aid treatments [*last week 15,430*] have been performed. Swim safely.

**ONE NON-PERISHABLE ITEM PER FAMILY EACH WEEK
TO HELP THE NEEDY IN THE LOCAL ILLAWARRA AREA
drop items in the special white plastic bin if you come to Mass**

THIS Sunday's Readings *on our website*

Passion – Palm – Sunday • Year **B**
1st Reading Isaiah 50:4-7
2nd Reading Philippians 2:6-11
Gospel Mark 14:1–15:47

NEXT Sunday's Readings *on our website*

Easter Sunday • Year **B**
1st Reading Acts 10:34,37-43
2nd Reading Colossians 3:1-4
Gospel Mark 16:1-7

SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Church of St Michael • Thirroul
Saturday – 5:30pm • Sunday – 8:00am

Restricted numbers apply ... however, there is
no need to register beforehand with the Parish Office

LITURGIES THIS WEEK

Thirroul Monday —
Tuesday 17:30
Wednesday 09:00
Holy Thursday 19:30
Good Friday 15:00

Parish of St Michael – Thirroul and Wombarra

Moving forward as a Parish Family + one of the Northern Illawarra Parishes

Patrick Vaughan • Parish Priest ❖ Andrew Granc ofm, Geoff Allen, Ken Cafe ofm • Assisting

📍 325 Lawrence Hargrave Drive
☎ 4268 1910 📠 4268 1976

📮 PO Box 44 • Thirroul 2515
📧 thirroul@dow.org.au

Parish Office
Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday
Thursday this week

9:00am to 3:30pm Magda Pires
10:00am to 3:00pm Maureen Franciskovic



www.thirroulcatholic.org.au

Parish School of St Michael ☎ 4267 2560