

Holy Week

Today is our entry into Holy Week. Over the coming days we will journey with the Lord through His death and resurrection. Please try to live this week always being conscious of Jesus' self-giving.



Our celebration this year will necessarily be restricted for safety reasons, so some aspects, particularly music, have been simplified. But we are blessed that this year, unlike last, there will be a congregation at each of the services, even if greatly reduced in number.

What we do this week is not reenactment or drama. In the liturgy of Holy Week, God Himself acts to make present the events we celebrate, and renews in our lives the grace of the Lord's saving death and life-giving resurrection. Let's not allow these days to pass us by like any normal week, but instead see here the great mystery of salvation being renewed for each of us, and for our parish community.

Today's Readings

This is the only Mass of the year when we hear two readings from the Gospel. At the beginning of Mass, we hear of our Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the event we celebrate today. Later we hear St Mark's account of the Passion of Jesus (read this year in its shorter form, due to Covid restrictions). This sets the scene for the week ahead, and especially for the Easter Triduum. The first reading, from one of Isaiah's servant songs, speaks of God's servant willingly accepting unjust suffering and putting His trust in the Lord. The second reading is the wonderful hymn from St Paul's letter to the Philippians, which gives us the whole span of Jesus' life, from His leaving heaven to come to earth, through His life and death, to His glorification, when God raised Him from the dead.

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MASSES THIS WEEK

Office: Psalter week 2; Sundays: year B; Weekdays: of Holy Week

Morning Mass is livestreamed each day and will be available for viewing later in the day on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/StClaresChurch>

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Saturday	6pm (vigil)*	PALM SUNDAY	Les Thornton RIP
Sunday 28 th	9:30am*		People of the Parish
	11:30am*		Private Intention
	6pm*		Fr Michael Lakeland RIP
Monday	9:30am		Keith Tittle RIP
Tuesday	9:30am		Special Intention
Wednesday	9:30am		Shirley Gilleade RIP
Thursday	7pm*	MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER	People of the Parish
Friday	3pm (outdoors)	LITURGY OF THE LORD'S PASSION	
Saturday	8:30pm (vigil)*	THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD	Ints Veronica Anderton
Sunday 4 th	10:30am (outdoors) TBC on Friday		Winifred Hamilton RIP

* These Masses can only be attended by those who have booked in advance.

LATELY DEAD: Please pray for all who have died recently.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Monday and Wednesday 5-6pm this week and on request. No confessions next Saturday (3rd April).

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Palm Sunday 3pm and Good Friday 10am, in church and live on YouTube.

ROSARY: Prayed after 9:30am Mass, Monday-Wednesday.

ANNIVERSARIES: Clifford Critchley, Ray Hodges, Anne Connor, Tom Dickinson, Fr Odran Callan, Carol McCarthy, Olive Halliwell, Luigina Dawson.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MARCH: That we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

HOLY WEEK: Today we enter the most important week of the year. The mysteries we celebrate this week are the source and summit of our faith and our hope of salvation and eternal life. Please participate as you can – in person or online – and most of all, in a prayerful way. See front and back pages for more on Holy Week.

EASTER SUNDAY MASS: We plan to hold the Easter morning Mass outdoors, at 10:30am. This will be the only Mass on Easter day itself. It is forecast to be dry but fairly cool, so please wrap up. More info about outdoor services on the back page. If the forecast is very poor, the plan may change – this will be confirmed on Friday.

HOLY WEEK TALK: Last Tuesday's talk, *Immersed in the Mystery* is available to view on our YouTube channel. A chance to explore more deeply the Holy Week services.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Palm Sunday 3pm and Good Friday at 10am, in church and online. You do not need to book to attend these devotions.

CONFESSIONS will be available this Monday and Wednesday, 5-6pm. Please note, there are no confessions next Saturday.

EASTER FLOWERS: Donations are welcome, in marked envelopes. Please include the name(s) of anyone you wish to be remembered. A list of names will be displayed.

GIFT AID SCHEME: A Gift Aid tax reclaim will be submitted shortly to HMRC. Please notify us if you are no longer a taxpayer or you paid insufficient tax during 2020/21 to cover the tax that will be reclaimed on all your donations given under Gift Aid to all charities during the tax year. At the present standard rate of tax of 20%, 25p is reclaimed for every £1 donated. If you have moved house during the tax year please let us have your new address.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES: The 2021-22 Gift Aid envelopes are now available in the narthex, for use from 10th/11th April. If you use envelopes, please collect yours today. Your number may have changed, but boxes are labelled with your name.

DONATING BY STANDING ORDER? If you donate to the parish by standing order and you gift aid your contribution, there should be a set of envelopes for you to cover the special collections which take place through the year. Many of you will be contributing to these collections but we cannot claim Gift Aid from them unless you use an envelope, so please take a set if you can.

18-35? Interested in going to the G7 Summit in June as part of CAFOD's youth delegation? Call 717376.

JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM: If you'd like to support our youth group in their sponsored virtual journey, visit: <http://www.metanoiaproject.co.uk/virtual-trip-to-jerusalem> For more details, please see last weekend's newsletter.

MAGNIFICAT HOLY WEEK EDITION is available for free download from the Magnificat website at <https://uk.magnificat.net/holyweek>

Holy Week timetable (subject to change in the event of bad weather)

Palm Sunday:

Vigil Mass 6pm

Morning Masses: 9:30am* and 11:30am (indoors)

Stations of the Cross 3pm*

Evening Mass 6pm

Normal Sunday Mass bookings apply this weekend. If you don't have a regular space but would like to come, please get in touch.

Monday 29th-Wednesday 31st: Mass at 9:30am*; private prayer 5-6pm.

Maundy Thursday:

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm* – only for those who have a confirmed space.

Private prayer 8pm-midnight. Compline (night prayer) 11:50pm.

Good Friday:

Stations of the Cross 10am*

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion (outdoors; booking not required) 3pm*

Holy Saturday:

Easter Vigil 8:30pm* – only for those who have a confirmed space.

Easter Sunday: [Timetable may change; will be confirmed on Good Friday]

Morning Mass (outdoors; booking not required) 10:30am* NB: no evening Mass

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 3pm-4pm

*these liturgies/devotions will also be streamed live on YouTube

Information about outdoor services (Good Friday 3pm, Easter Sunday 10:30am)

- Booking is not required, as there should be plenty of space
- Please come on foot if you can. If using a car, the school playground will also be open, and reserve parking is available at the Xaverian Centre (Tabor)
- Gates will open 30 minutes before the liturgy starts. No access before then.
- Please wear a face covering when you arrive and leave. When seated, it may be removed for outdoor services if you wish.
- If you have portable chairs, please bring them with you for your own use.
- It looks likely to be cool – please dress accordingly, and if there is a chance of showers, bring an umbrella!
- Please do not gather on the street outside. The law specifically allows for us to celebrate services within our grounds, but gatherings not on church property are illegal.
- Times and arrangements for Easter Sunday morning may change, if the weather forecast is poor. A decision will be announced on Friday (at the Good Friday afternoon liturgy and online)