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## What is 'Passiontide'?

Today marks something of a watershed moment in Lent, as we move into what's known as 'Passiontide'. In these final two weeks before Easter, our focus moves very clearly to the Passion (the suffering and death) of our Lord. These days give us an extended chance to reflect on the incredible mystery we recall on Good Friday – the mystery that God Himself, having taken on human nature in the person of Jesus Christ, submitted to death for our salvation.

Already the statues and images in the church have been veiled. This prepares us for that moment on Good Friday, when the cross will be revealed to us for adoration. It's also part of a gradual subduing of the liturgy: statues are veiled now, and after Mass on Maundy Thursday the altar is stripped. Decoration, things which stimulate our senses, gradually reduce until our focus is left only on the cross of our Lord.

The readings point more clearly to Jesus' sacrificial death and from tomorrow, the preface at Mass each day explicitly speaks of the Lord's Passion. Next weekend we celebrate Palm Sunday, when Jesus rode into Jerusalem knowing that He was going to die there. We will hear St Mark's account of the Passion, setting the scene for the events we live through with our Lord in Holy Week.

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## Today's Readings

As noted above, we see in the readings now a clear shift towards the Lord's Passion. In the Gospel Jesus speaks of how His death will yield a rich harvest. This harvest comes because Jesus, lifted up on the cross, will "draw all people to Himself". In the first reading we hear Jeremiah's prophecy of a "new covenant" between God and humanity – words Jesus will use at the Last Supper to describe the effects of His Blood being outpoured for us. The Letter to the Hebrews continues the focus on the Lord's Passion, noting that Jesus humbly submitted, in prayer and tears, to the Father's will, and so was saved out of death.

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## MASSES THIS WEEK

Office: Psalter week 1; Sundays: year B; Weekdays: of Lent

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)*	<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	Ronnie Whittle RIP
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	9:30am*		People of the Parish
	11:30am*		Patrick Russell RIP
	6pm*		Mariyamma Skaria RIP
Monday	9:30am	<i>Mass in parish hall</i>	Special Intention (SC)
Tuesday	9:30am	<i>Mass in parish hall</i>	John and Veronica Baines RIP
Wednesday	9:30am		George Oldcorn RIP
Thursday	9:30am	<b>THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD</b>	Ray Parr RIP
Friday	9:30am		Rachel Gahan RIP
Saturday	9:30am		Noeline
	6pm (vigil)*	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	Les Thornton RIP
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am*		People of the Parish
	11:30am*		Private Intention
	6pm*		Fr Michael Lakeland RIP

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

**LATELY DEAD:** Please pray for **Bernard Warriner**, and all who have died recently.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** Wednesday 5-6pm this week, Saturday 11am-12noon and on request.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Sundays in Lent 3pm in church and live on YouTube; also Friday 7pm this week (with Aid to the Church in Need).

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

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Wilfred Foy, Richard Atkinson, Ian Gregson, Roseanne Dorning, Steven Coop, Theresa Higham, Isabella Main, May Flood, Thomas McGowan, Stephen Ambler, Mary Bradley, Dorothy Cavanagh, Winifred Wakeham.

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

**PALM SUNDAY MASS:** The weather forecast for next weekend looks very mixed, so we will celebrate Palm Sunday Mass indoors and at the usual times. All current Sunday Mass bookings apply as normal. If you don't have a regular place and would like to come to Mass for Palm Sunday, please contact us.

**HOLY WEEK BOOKING:** Those who have requested place(s) at the Maundy Thursday Mass or the Easter Vigil will hear back from us by the end of Wednesday.

**HOLY WEEK TALK:** This Tuesday (23<sup>rd</sup>), 7:30pm on our YouTube channel. A chance to explore the meaning of the liturgy of Holy Week, in which we are immersed in the mystery of the Lord's death and resurrection.

**ACN STATIONS:** Meditations on the Stations of the Cross highlighting the suffering of those persecuted for their faith, and how they share in the Lord's cross today. This Friday (26<sup>th</sup>) at 7pm. Retiring collection for Aid to the Church in Need.

**CHURCH CLOSURE THIS WEEK:** The church will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, for work. Mass will be celebrated in the hall. Please note that capacity is far less than church, so places cannot be guaranteed. Most local parishes have Mass on these days – if you need help finding an alternative, please speak to Fr A.

**ACN VIRTUAL SUNDAY LUNCH:** This Sunday (21<sup>st</sup>) at 1pm, live on the ACN YouTube channel ([www.youtube.com/user/AidtotheChurchinNeed](http://www.youtube.com/user/AidtotheChurchinNeed)). Prepare your own starter, main and dessert and set up your device where you can watch. There will be prayer, testimonies, interviews, cookery demonstrations, music and more! The event is free but donations are invited to support people in Lebanon.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Sundays 3pm, in church and online. Also this week, on Friday at 7pm, with Aid to the Church in Need (see above).

**CONFESSIONS** will be available this Wednesday, 5-6pm, as well as on 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.

**BUILD BACK BETTER:** You can make a difference! CAFOD is providing online training on lobbying our MPs to make a fairer world. 25 March or 10 April. Register at [cafod.org.uk/mpmeeting](http://cafod.org.uk/mpmeeting)

**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.

**CAFOD LENT APPEAL:** CAFOD have set up a JustGiving page for our parish. You can find it here: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-clares-lent-walkforwater>

## Events this week (occasional/one-off events in bold type)

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Every day	Anytime	Food Bank Collection	House Porch
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	3pm	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>	Church and YouTube
<b>Wed-Fri</b>	5-6pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Tuesday	7:30pm	<b>Immersed in the Mystery: the Liturgy of Holy Week (talk)</b>	YouTube
Friday	7pm	<b>Stations of the Cross with Aid to the Church in Need</b>	Church and YouTube
Saturday	11am-12	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	3pm	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>	Church and YouTube

## 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)

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 29<sup>th</sup>-Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup>:** Mass at 9:30am\*; private prayer 5-6pm.

**Maundy Thursday:** Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm\* – booking is essential.

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

### Good Friday:

Stations of the Cross 10am\*

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion (outdoors) 3pm\*

### Holy Saturday:

Easter Vigil and first Mass of the Resurrection 8:30pm\* – booking is essential.

### Easter Sunday:

Morning Mass (outdoors) 10:30am\* NB: no evening Mass on Easter Day.

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