

Our Lady Help of Christians

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord and Holy Week

28th March, 2021



Fr. Harry Curtis, Parish Priest

(Also serving Sacred Heart, Blackbird Leys)

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Sunday, 28 th March Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Day of Prayer for the Candidates for the Sacraments	Sat evening Vigil: 5.30 pm Sun morning: 11.00 am	Winnie Gildea RIP (Birthday) Debbie McAndrew
Monday, 29 th March	9.15 am 6.00 pm Reception of John Flanagan	Michelle Robbins
Tuesday, 30 th March	11.00 am Requiem Mass	John Flanagan
Wednesday, 31 st March	No Mass Today	
Thursday, 1 st April Maundy Thursday	THE EASTER TRIDUUM 7.00 pm MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER Richard Bolton	
Friday, 2 nd April Good Friday Today is a day of fasting and abstinence.	9.30 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.00 am-11.00 am Confessions 12.00 noon Stations of the Cross 3.00 pm SOLEMN CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION This is not a Mass, but a solemn celebration held at the time of Our Lord's death on the Cross.	
Saturday, 3 rd April Holy Saturday	9.30 am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer 10.00 am-11.00 am Confessions Today we join Jesus in His "Sabbath Rest" in the tomb, until ... 8.00 pm THE EASTER VIGIL James Pender	
Sunday, 4 th April Easter Sunday	11.00 am	Mick Mullagh

Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians for our celebration of Mass. Today we begin Holy Week.

Holy Week is the greatest week in the Church's year, so please take part as much as you can. *By taking part in the celebrations of the Liturgy we can enter into the events that happened about two thousand years ago. But we enter in, not as bystanders or casual observers but as believers, recognising our own part in what is unfolding, and also recognising the great things that God has done for us.* We can share with Jesus His triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, His special celebration of the Passover with His disciples at the Last Supper and then His agony and betrayal in the Garden on Maundy Thursday, all the horrible events of Good Friday, His "Sabbath Rest" on Holy Saturday, and thus we can truly share in His Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

If you wish to join us for Mass from your home, we are now live and can be viewed at

<https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/our-lady-help-of-christians>

The Sanctuary Candle is burning this week for the Borthwick Family.

The Sacred Heart Candle is burning this week for Agustinha Dos Santos RIP (Anniversary).

Our Lady's Candle is burning this week for a Special Intention.

St. Joseph's Candle is burning this week for the sick and the dying.

Please pray for those we know who are sick, including **Domenico Mirto and Regina Soares**. If you or any family members are ill and you would like to ask for prayers on this newsletter, let me know (in writing, please). Thank you.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of **John Flanagan, Bridget Willoughby, John Kinyungu** and the souls of all who have died recently, and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Archbishop Thomas Leighton Williams, Mgr. Canon Daniel Leonard, Canon Brian Withers, Frs. Thomas Cockburn, Matthew Sheridan, John Callaghan, Philip O'Reilly, Lawrence King and Deacon Raymond Zacaroli, and also Richard Bolton, John Steele, Breda Keenan, Patricia Conway and Elizabeth Conry. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. May they rest in peace. John Flanagan's funeral will be here on Tuesday at 11.00 am. As usual it will be streamed and, if you can, I invite you to attend virtually and to pray for John and his family.



Today is Palm Sunday, the start of Holy Week

Wednesday: The Chrism Mass. The Archbishop will celebrate the Chrism Mass at 11.30 on Wednesday morning in St. Chad's Cathedral, joined by the Auxiliary Bishops, Deans, Chapter Canons and our recently ordained priests to mark this important celebration. The Chrism Mass is the occasion when the Holy Oils are blessed which are used for all Baptisms, Confirmations, Ordinations, and Anointings of the Sick in the diocese during the coming year. [Chrism Mass, live streamed from St Chad's Cathedral | Birmingham Diocesan Trust \(birminghamdiocese.org.uk\)](#)



Maundy Thursday: The Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.00 pm on Maundy Thursday evening is the end of Lent and the start of the Easter Triduum. At this Mass we celebrate the institution of the Sacraments of the Eucharist and the Priesthood.



Watching at the Altar of Repose. After Mass the Blessed Sacrament will be reposed in the tabernacle and we shall leave the church. If you wish to keep watch with Jesus, remembering His Agony in the Garden and His acceptance of His Father's will, please go to the livestreaming. I shall pray Night Prayer at 10.00 pm.

Good Friday: On Good Friday there is no Mass, but at 3.00 pm in the afternoon there is a "Solemn Celebration" of the Passion of our Lord. There are four parts:



1. *The Introductory Rites*
2. *The Liturgy of the Word*
3. *The Veneration of the Cross*
4. *Holy Communion*

Holy Saturday: We do not celebrate Mass on Holy Saturday, the Lord's Day of Rest in the tomb, but in the evening starting at 8.00 pm we begin our Easter celebrations with the Easter Vigil which is the greatest event in the Church's year. There are four parts to the service

1. *The Service of Light*
2. *The Liturgy of the Word*
3. *The Liturgy of Baptism*
4. *The Liturgy of the Eucharist*



Sacraments of Initiation: Please pray for Michelle Robbins who will be baptised and received into the Church on at the 9.15 Mass on Monday.

Welcome to Fr. Martin Flatman. I am very grateful to Fr. Martin who will help me with the services on Holy Week. He will be at Sacred Heart on Thursday and Saturday, while I am here. On Good Friday I shall be at Sacred Heart and Fr. Martin will be here.

Gift Aid Envelopes. The new Gift Aid envelopes are available to collect from the hall. If you no longer need them or if your circumstances have changed (e.g. you no longer pay income tax) let Geraldine, the Parish Secretary, know, or if you have changed your address.

The collection on Good Friday is for the Holy Places – i.e. for the upkeep of the sites in the Holy Land associated with the life of Our Lord.

Traditionally the collection at the Easter Masses is your personal offering to your priest. There are envelopes at the back of church to use if you wish. Thank you.

Booking for Holy Week and the Easter Triduum

You are welcome to Our Lady's, but please **book your places for any of the services of Holy Week and Easter**. Let Geraldine, the Parish Secretary, know by email, 'phone or a note through the presbytery door which services and how many will be with you.

Here is a prayer, **an Act of Spiritual Communion**, which you can say as you watch a Livestream Mass:

"My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You."

Prayer at the end of Mass:

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve: to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus, O merciful, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! *Pray for us, O holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

May God bless you all this Holy Week.

Fr. Harry