



Holy Trinity Catholic Church

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Holy Trinity is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust

Sunday 24 March 2024 - Palm Sunday – Passion Sunday **Readings: Year B**

Dear Parishioners

At last, we have arrived at "The Great Week" as it is called in the Eastern Church: Holy Week, Semana Santa. Beginning with the heady Procession into Jerusalem of Palm Sunday (now also renamed Passion Sunday), we journey with Jesus through Spy Wednesday and the betrayal by a chosen disciple, with the Cross on Calvary casting an increasing shadow. The poignant supper on Maundy Thursday when Jesus gives His Commandment to love, the desolation of the garden, the bleak darkness and despair of Good Friday, the tomb's silence of Holy Saturday...

It is a mistake to view the events of this week as separate actions. They all form one story, the final Heilsgeschichte of our Faith. Each service is saturated with symbolism and theological meaning and that is why I always encourage the faithful to "do Holy Week", to allow oneself to be caught up into the divine drama, not as a spectator but as a participant in the tragedy and eventual triumph. Yes, it is demanding but it is worth it!

Holy Week does not end in the grave. At the Saturday evening Vigil, gradually the light returns, the gloom is scattered, hope and new life win the day. "Rejoice, heavenly powers...Death is defeated. Christ rises." We have not been abandoned...He promised us that! On Easter morning the church is full of light and beauty as the Bride of Christ now sings the songs of Zion. "Awake o sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine upon you"

I hope that this year you are able to do as much as possible of this Holy Week and to experience the Passion, and the Victory, of our Saviour. My big thanks on all our behalf to the musicians and singers, the cleaners and flower ladies, the readers and sidesmen, the newsletter ladies and collection beavers, for all that they will be doing this next week and have been doing through the Winter.

God bless everyone
Fr Clive.



Parish Notices

Please note the Holy Week times. Why not "do Holy Week" this year?

Palm Sunday 24 March: 9.15 am St Teresa's and 11 am Holy Trinity ...both with a Procession.

Monday/Tuesday 25/26 March: 9.15 am Holy Trinity (note: Tuesday is a school Mass).

Tuesday 26 March: 7 pm Service of Reconciliation (Confessions) Holy Trinity.

Wednesday 27 March: Chrism Mass in St Chad's Cathedral. No Masses in either parish.

Thursday 28 March: 7 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper, Holy Trinity.

Friday 29 March: 10 am Stations of the Cross and 3 pm The Passion...both Holy Trinity.

Saturday 30 March: 8 pm The Easter Vigil Holy Trinity.

Sunday 31 March: 11 am Easter Sunday

Second Collection on Palm Sunday and Good Friday for Holy Places

Volunteers needed to take part in the 'Washing of the Feet' on Holy Thursday – there's a note at the back of church or let Father Clive know. Thank you.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March 2024: For the New Martyrs. For those around the world who risk their lives for the gospel, to inspire the Church with their courage and missionary zeal.

Please continue to pray for our sick, housebound and frail parishioners of both our Parishes: Carol Wilson, Tom Cantwell, Bridget Kennelly, Audrey Nellis, Richard O'Farrell, Mary Ward, Paula Biggs, Lynette Murphy, Betty, Ania.

In addition to your own daily prayers please remember: All those who mourn the loss of loved ones: The repose of the souls of those who have died: People whose anniversaries occur at this time: The people of the Middle East, Morocco, Ukraine, Turkey and Syria.

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is **Tammy Lawson**. Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.