

EASTER SERVICES 2021

6.30pm Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lords Supper at Claughton
3pm The Celebration of the Lords Passion at Hill Chapel
8pm Holy Saturday, The Easter Vigil at Claughton
9am Easter Sunday, Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord at Claughton
10.30am Easter Sunday, Mass of the Lord's Resurrection at Hill Chapel

To book a place at Claughton ring Catherine on Tel: 01995 640360 or Whatsapp. To book a place at Hill Chapel ring Mary on Tel: 0789 116 2929 or give your details to the stewards after mass on Sunday.

INGOL FOOD BANK

For many people, life this year is harder than ever. We are continuing our collections for Ingol Food bank in Preston. If you would be able to give any tins or packets of food – please leave them in a carrier bag in the box at the back of church or in the box by the presbytery if church is not open. Many thanks for supporting the needy and vulnerable during these difficult times.

PARISHIONERS WHO ARE UNWELL

If you would like the parish to pray for someone who is currently unwell, please email news@stfrancisgoosnargh.org.uk or ring Father Sony on 01772 865229. It will be then be included in the newsletter. We have an area in church where you can write a prayer intention on a card and hang it up if you prefer it not to go on the parish newsletter.

CHURCH DONATIONS

With many people still unable to attend church we still need to maintain an income for maintenance. There are several ways you can still make your contributions including by cheque or direct debit. For details please go to the church website or contact Tom Smyth on 017722 865689.

Attendance and collection: Sunday 14 March – 32: £75.00

CAFOD Family Fast Day collection: £50.50 Thank you!

During Lent your prayers are asked for candidates for the sacraments, the needy and hungry of the world, survivors of sexual abuse, and penitents and wanderers.



St Francis Hill Chapel Parish Newsletter

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**In case of emergency (and unable to contact Father Sony) please ring
Father Dutton on 01772 782641 or Canon Doyle on 01772 782244**

PALM SUNDAY

28 March 2021 (Readings: Year B)

Parish Mission Statement

Our Parish, guided by the example of our patron St Francis of Assisi, seeks to be a welcoming Catholic Community, by living, sharing and growing in faith. We strive to deepen our own relationship with Christ and meet the needs of others.

Church is now open again for Sunday mass at 10.30am. **Please only attend mass if you feel safe to do so. The dispensation for Sunday mass is still in place.**

Mass today is for the deceased members of the Ibison family, and for Cuthbert and Margaret Gornall. Please pray for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time, especially Josephine Clarkson, Joseph Anthony Melling and Thomas Edward Eastham.

Your prayers are requested for **June Cynthia Gornall**, mother of Angela Cornell, who died on 20 March. June's funeral will take place on 8 April at 12 noon. May her soul rest in peace.

Daily Mass live at 9.30am from St Clare's in Preston can be accessed on their YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/StClaresChurch/>

All Holy week services are being streamed live from the Cathedral.

Check the link for times:

[Lancaster Cathedral](#) See their Youtube channel for Stations of the Cross and more...

10.30am [Palm Sunday Mass at Lancaster Cathedral on Vimeo](#) 6.30pm Holy Thursday, 3pm Good Friday and 8pm Holy Saturday.

[Schedule - ChurchServices.tv live mass and services from Churches in the UK and Ireland](#)

SAFETY RULES FOR MASS

Stewards will be on duty to ensure that safety procedures are followed. Full details are on our website. Please do read them. **Face masks will need to be worn** as specified by the government.

Please follow these guidelines once entering church:

- * **Sanitise hands** on entry.
- * Please do **keep your distance** – use the high visibility tape on floor as a guide.
- * Place your collection on the collection plate **as you enter**.
- * Please take a mass sheet & newsletter on entry and **take them away when you leave**.
- * At Holy Communion (given in silence):

Please wear a mask as you go up the aisle to communion and remove their mask before they receive the sacrament.

People from upstairs will go first down the right-hand side and return down the opposite aisle to maintain social distancing.

People on the right-hand side will then receive Holy Communion, followed by people on the left-hand side – guided by the stewards.

BIDDING PRAYERS

Loving Lord, bring us closer to you this Lent through prayer. Help us to gain strength and inspiration from your never-ending love for us as we offer our intentions to you on this Palm Sunday.

We pray for Pope Francis and all church leaders in the lead up to Easter. May they be spiritually nourished to lead others to experience and know the love of God in their lives. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for world leaders and governments, especially in countries that are not seeing a decrease in the number of people suffering from Covid. May the rates dramatically reduce and may treatment be readily available for all those who need support. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for charities and all those who are working with the most vulnerable in our world. May people show compassion and understanding in ensuring that there is food and support for all those who are in desperate need. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for your never ending presence in our lives. May your love and compassion be constantly with us as we face the week ahead, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

FROM THE ARCHIVES:

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, the most important and holiest week in the Christian calendar, ending with the glorious resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday. On the first Palm Sunday, in about the year 33 AD, the holy city of Jerusalem, and the roads leading into it, would have been crowded with pilgrims who had come for the annual Passover celebration. Jesus' journey into Jerusalem was by no means uneventful. He had spent many months travelling through the towns and villages of Palestine, teaching those He met and healing the sick wherever He went. The journey to Jerusalem from the Sea of Galilee would have taken him down the Jordan valley to the village oasis of Jericho where, amongst the crowds, He met Zacchaeus, a wealthy Jewish public official who collected taxes on behalf of the Roman government. Famously, Zacchaeus climbed a sycamore fig tree to call out to Jesus and invite him to stay at his house overnight. Zacchaeus took this opportunity to repent for having cheated people in the past and promised to pay back four times the amount to those he had cheated. Jesus would have left Jericho the next day to start the long walk up the very steep hill out of the Jordan valley towards Jerusalem. As He left Jericho, St Matthew describes how Jesus healed a blind man called Bartimaeus who cried out from the crowd, **'Jesus, Son of David. Take pity on me!'** The winding road leading out of Jericho is surrounded by a wilderness and bandits would have frequented the area. Jesus referred to this road in the parable of the Good Samaritan. (In recent times an enterprising

person has opened an inn on the side of the road and called it The Inn of The Good Samaritan!)

Jesus and his disciples would have stayed in the small hamlet of Bethphage on the night before the final journey down to Jerusalem. He would have known the area well as Bethphage is close to Bethany, the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. As they came near to Jerusalem, Jesus told two of His disciples to go into a nearby village and bring a donkey that would be waiting there. He then rode on the donkey for the final stretch into Jerusalem. Crowds of people spread their coats on the ground in front of Him. Some waved branches of palm trees, a sign of victory. The people shouted, ‘Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel!’ Only a king would be greeted this way and the people wanted Jesus to be their king. Mingling with the crowd were groups of pharisees who resented the attention Jesus was being given. However, most of the people did not understand what kind of king Jesus would be. They expected their Messiah to be a great political and military leader who would free them from the tyranny of the Roman Empire. But God’s Kingdom is not of this world, it is a spiritual kingdom that is now growing in the hearts of people who put their faith and trust in God.

Jesus eventually entered the crowded city through the eastern gate and made His way to the Temple Courts where, much to the annoyance of the Pharisees, He expelled a group of money changers and merchants accusing them of turning the Temple into ‘a den of thieves’. Jesus then immediately left the city and went to the Mount of Olives where he would eventually weep over the city, ‘I wish even today that you will find the way of peace. However, now it is too late, and peace is hidden from you.’ (Luke 19:41-44) Sadly, Jerusalem today is still very much a divided city.

Mike Bryan

READINGS

This gospel is read at the procession with palms before Mass:

Gospel

Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord.

When they drew near to Jerusalem,
to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives,
Jesus sent two of his disciples, and said to them,
‘Go into the village opposite you,
and immediately as you enter it
you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat;

untie it and bring it.

If any one says to you,

“Why are you doing this?” say,

“The Lord has need of it

and will send it back here immediately.”

And they went away,

and found a colt tied at the door out in the open street;

and they untied it.

And those who stood there said to them,

‘What are you doing, untying the colt?’

And they told them what Jesus had said;

and they let them go.

And they brought the colt to Jesus,

and threw their garments on it;

and he sat upon it.

And many spread their garments on the road,

and others spread leafy branches

which they had cut from the fields.

And those who went before

and those who followed cried out,

‘Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is coming!

Hosanna in the highest!’

First reading

Isaiah 50:4-7

I did not cover my face against insult: I know I shall not be shamed

The Lord has given me

a disciple’s tongue.

So that I may know how to reply to the wearied

he provides me with speech.

Each morning he wakes me to hear,

to listen like a disciple.

The Lord has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance,

neither did I turn away.

I offered my back to those who struck me,

my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;

I did not cover my face

against insult and spittle.

The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 21(22):8-9,17-20,23-24

Second reading

Philippians 2:6-11

Christ humbled himself but God raised him high

His state was divine,
yet Christ Jesus did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave
and became as men are;
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation

Phil2:8-9

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
Christ was humbler yet,
even to accepting death, death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name which is above all names.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Gospel

Mark 14:1-15:47

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

Key: N. Narrator. ✠ Jesus. O. Other single speaker. C. Crowd, or more than one speaker.

N. It was two days before the Passover and the feast of Unleavened Bread, and the chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by some trick and have him put to death. For they said,

C. It must not be during the festivities, or there will be a disturbance among the people.

N. Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper; he was at dinner when a woman came in with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the ointment on his head. Some who were there said to one another indignantly,

C. Why this waste of ointment? Ointment like this could have been sold for over three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor.

N. and they were angry with her. But Jesus said,

✠ Leave her alone. Why are you upsetting her? What she has done for me is one of the good works. You have the poor with you always, and you can be kind to them whenever you wish, but you will not always have me. She has done what was in her power to do: she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. I tell you solemnly, wherever throughout all the world the Good News is proclaimed, what she has done will be told also, in remembrance of her.

N. Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, approached the chief priests with an offer to hand Jesus over to them. They were delighted to hear it, and promised to give him money; and he looked for a way of betraying him when the opportunity should occur.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was sacrificed, his disciples said to him,

C. Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the passover?

N. So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them,

✠ Go into the city and you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him, and say to the owner of the house which he enters, "The Master says: "Where is my dining room in which I can eat the passover with my disciples?" He will show you a large upper room furnished with couches, all prepared. Make the preparations for us there.

N. The disciples set out and went to the city and found everything as he had told them, and prepared the Passover.

When evening came he arrived with the Twelve. And while they were at table eating, Jesus said,

✠ I tell you solemnly, one of you is about to betray me, one of you eating with me.

N. They were distressed and asked him, one after another,

C. Not I, surely?

N. He said to them,

✠ It is one of the Twelve, one who is dipping into the same dish with me. Yes, the Son of Man is going to his fate, as the scriptures say he will, but alas for that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! Better for that man if he had never been born!

N. And as they were eating he took some bread, and when he had said the blessing he broke it and gave it to them, saying:

✠ Take it: this is my body.

N. Then he took a cup, and when he had returned thanks he gave it to them, and all drank from it, and he said to them,

✠ This is my blood, the blood of the covenant, which is to be poured out for many. I tell you solemnly, I shall not drink any more wine until the day I drink the new wine in the kingdom of God.

N. After psalms had been sung they left for the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them,

✠ You will all lose faith, for the scripture says: 'I shall strike the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered.' However, after my resurrection I shall go before you to Galilee.

N. Peter said,

O. Even if all lose faith, I will not.

N. And Jesus said to him,

✠ I tell you solemnly, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will have disowned me three times.

N. But he repeated still more earnestly,

O. If I have to die with you, I will never disown you.

N. And they all said the same.

They came to a small estate called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples,

✠ Stay here while I pray.

N. Then he took Peter and James and John with him. And a sudden fear came over him, and great distress. And he said to them,

✠ My soul is sorrowful to the point of death. Wait here, and keep awake.

N. And going on a little further he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, this hour might pass him by. He said:

✠ Abba (Father)! Everything is possible for you. Take this cup away from me. But let it be as you, not I, would have it.

N. He came back and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter,

✠ Simon, are you asleep? Had you not the strength to keep awake one hour? You should be awake, and praying not to be put to the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

N. Again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came back and found them sleeping, their eyes were so heavy; and they could find no answer for him. He came back a third time and said to them,

✠ You can sleep on now and take your rest. It is all over. The hour has come. Now the Son of Man is to be betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up! Let us go! My betrayer is close at hand already.

N. Even while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, came up with a number of men armed with swords and clubs, sent by the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. Now the traitor had arranged a signal with them. He had said,

O. The one I kiss he is the man. Take him in charge, and see he is well guarded when you lead him away.

N. So when the traitor came, he went straight up to Jesus and said,

O. Rabbi!

N. and kissed him. The others seized him and took him in charge. Then one of the bystanders drew his sword and struck out at the high priest's servant, and cut off his ear.

Then Jesus spoke:

✠ Am I a brigand, that you had to set out to capture me with swords and clubs? I was among you teaching in the Temple day after day and you never laid hands on me. But this is to fulfil the scriptures.

N. And they all deserted him and ran away. A young man who followed him had nothing on but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, but he left the cloth in their hands and ran away naked.

They led Jesus off to the high priest; and all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes assembled there. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the high priest's palace, and was sitting with the attendants warming himself at the fire.

The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus on which they might pass the death sentence. But they could not find any. Several, indeed, brought false evidence against him, but their evidence was conflicting. Some stood up and submitted this false evidence against him,

C. We heard him say, 'I am going to destroy this Temple made by human hands, and in three days build another, not made by human hands.'

N. But even on this point their evidence was conflicting. The high priest then stood up before the whole assembly and put this question to Jesus,

O. Have you no answer to that? What is this evidence these men are bringing against you?

N. But he was silent and made no answer at all. The high priest put a second question to him,

O. Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?

N. Jesus said,

✠ I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.

N. The high priest tore his robes, and said:

O. What need of witnesses have we now? You heard the blasphemy. What is your finding?

N. And they all gave their verdict: he deserved to die.

Some of them started spitting at him and, blindfolding him, began hitting him with their fists and shouting,

C. Play the prophet!

N. And the attendants rained blows on him.

While Peter was down below in the courtyard, one of the high priest's servant-girls came up. She saw Peter warming himself there, stared at him and said,

O. You too were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.

N. But he denied it, saying.

O. I do not know, I do not understand, what you are talking about.

N. And he went out into the forecourt. The servant-girl saw him and again started telling the bystanders,

O. This fellow is one of them.

N. But again he denied it. A little later the bystanders themselves said to Peter,

C. You are one of them for sure! Why, you are a Galilean.

N. But he started calling down curses on himself and swearing,

O. I do not know the man you speak of.

N. At that moment the cock crew for the second time, and Peter recalled how Jesus had said to him, 'Before the cock crows twice, you will have disowned me three times.' And he burst into tears.

First thing in the morning, the chief priests together with the elders and scribes, in short the whole Sanhedrin, had their plan ready. They had Jesus bound and took him away and handed him over to Pilate.

Pilate questioned him:

O. Are you the king of the Jews?

N. He answered,

✠ It is you who say it.

N. And the chief priests brought many accusations against him. Pilate questioned him again:

O. Have you no reply at all? See how many accusations they are bringing against you!

N. But, to Pilate's amazement, Jesus made no further reply.

At festival time Pilate used to release a prisoner for them, anyone they asked for. Now a man called Barabbas was then in prison with the rioters who had committed murder during the uprising. When the crowd went up and began to ask Pilate the customary favour, Pilate answered them

O. Do you want me to release for you the king of the Jews?

N. For he realised it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over. The chief priests, however, had incited the crowd to demand that he should release Barabbas for them instead. Then Pilate spoke again:

O. But in that case, what am I to do with the man you call king of the Jews?

N. They shouted back,

C. Crucify him!

N. Pilate asked them,

O. Why? What harm has he done?

N. But they shouted all the louder,

C. Crucify him!

N. So Pilate, anxious to placate the crowd, released Barabbas for them and, having ordered Jesus to be scourged, handed him over to be crucified.

The soldiers led him away to the inner part of the palace, that is, the Praetorium, and called the whole cohort together. They dressed him up in purple, twisted some thorns into a crown and put it on him. And they began saluting him,

C. Hail, king of the Jews!

N. They struck his head with a reed and spat on him; and they went down on their knees to do him homage. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the purple and dressed him in his own clothes.

They led him out to crucify him: they enlisted a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means the place of the skull.

They offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he refused it. Then they crucified him, and shared out his clothing, casting lots to decide what each should get. It was the third hour when they crucified him. The inscription giving the charge against him read: 'The King of the Jews.' And they crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said,

C. Aha! So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself: come down from the cross!

N. The chief priests and the scribes mocked him among themselves in the same way. They said,

C. He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the king of Israel, come down from the cross now, for us to see it and believe.

N. Even those who were crucified with him taunted him.

When the sixth hour came there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

✠ Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?

N. which means, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood by heard this, they said

C. Listen, he is calling on Elijah.

N. Someone ran and soaked a sponge in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink, saying:

O. Wait and see if Elijah will come to take him down.

N. But Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

All kneel and pause for a moment.

And the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The centurion, who was standing in front of him, had seen how he had died, and he said,

O. In truth this man was a son of God.

N. There were some women watching from a distance. Among them were Mary of Magdala, Mary who was the mother of James the younger and Joset, and Salome. These used to follow him and look after him when he was in Galilee. And there were many other women there who had come up to Jerusalem with him.

It was now evening, and since it was Preparation Day (that is, the vigil of the sabbath), there came Joseph of Arimathaea, a prominent member of the Council, who himself lived in the hope of seeing the kingdom of God, and he boldly went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate, astonished that he should have died so soon, summoned the centurion and enquired if he was already dead. Having been assured of this by the centurion, he granted the corpse to Joseph who bought a shroud, took Jesus down from the cross, wrapped him in the shroud and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb. Mary of Magdala and Mary the mother of Joset were watching and took note of where he was laid.