



# Parish News

## Sunday 28th MARCH

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### Palm (Passion) Sunday.

The account of the passion in Mark is very stark. Jesus is portrayed as alone, abandoned by his closest friends and perhaps even by God. He dies on the cross with a loud cry on his lips and darkness covers the whole earth. Yet at this precise moment the Roman centurion who was guarding him, having seen how he died, makes the great confession of faith: 'Truly this man was God's Son.' Throughout his ministry Jesus had tried to teach his followers that the way of the kingdom was the



way of self emptying love. They had to become servants, slaves to one another and forget about greatness as the world understands it.

Repeatedly they failed to understand him and eventually they ran away. So we are left with this foreign outsider to tell us the meaning of Calvary. Through his faithfulness to the kingdom Jesus finally tears away the veil that separates God and suffering humanity. By his prayer of abandonment Jesus has shown us that, far from abandoning us, God has identified totally with our struggle.

### **Reflection**

*Suffering is part and parcel of being human and, while we must readily acknowledge this fact, it is also true that we usually do all in our power to avoid it. The readings for today are an invitation to reflect on how it is that passion of Jesus can change our outlook on suffering. Our Saviour may be seen in these texts as a model of patient endurance and of faithfulness. We are not asked to believe that suffering is good in itself but to see that good can come of it and to recognise in Jesus God's solidarity with all those who endure suffering for doing what is right.*



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### THE SACRED TRIDUUM SCHEDULE

#### **Holy Thursday 1st April**

**Morning Prayer**

**09:15am Immaculate Conception Church, Trench Road**

**10:00am St Columb's Church, Chapel Road**

**Mass of the Lord's Supper**

**5:00pm St Columb's Church, Chapel Road**

**Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by Silent Prayer and Night Prayer**

**7:30pm All 3 Churches**

#### **Good Friday 2nd April**

**Morning Prayer**

**09:15am Immaculate Conception Church, Trench Road**

**10:00am St Columb's Church, Chapel Road**

**The Passion of the Lord 3:00pm All 3 Churches**

**7:30pm St Columb's Church, Chapel Road**

**Stations of the Cross ending with Night Prayer**

**7:30pm Immaculate Conception Church, Trench Road**

#### **Holy Saturday 3rd April**

**Morning Prayer**

**09:15am Immaculate Conception Church, Trench Road**

**10:00am St Columb's Church, Chapel Road**

**Divine Mercy Novena - Chaplet**

**3:00pm Immaculate Conception Church, Trench Road**

#### **The Easter Vigil**

**8:30pm All 3 Churches**

The [full schedule](#) is available on the parish website

*All Liturgies are streamed on [www.youtube.com/watersideparish](http://www.youtube.com/watersideparish)*

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### **Change of dates for Sacraments.**

Bishop Donal McKeown has deferred **First Communions** in Derry until September to prevent traditional parties spreading Covid-19. Bishop Donal said that he has taken the difficult decision to postpone the ceremonies beyond the traditional May dates to protect life during the ongoing pandemic.

The diocese has also deferred the **Sacrament of Confirmation** until June although the decision will be reviewed in mid-May.

**Baptisms** meanwhile should be limited to parents, godparents and siblings of children being baptised. In situations where there are multiple baptisms, numbers within the church should be limited to 25.

**A Man of Sorrows and Acquainted with Grief:** The Passion of Our Lord presented in Scripture, reflections and sacred music by four young local Derry students here in St Eugene's Cathedral at 8.15pm this evening (Palm Sunday). In compliance with restrictions this year, we advise only those who cannot watch the production on the webcam to attend the Cathedral.

**Ralph Martin** - Lenten Mission fulfillment of all desires. Each of the one hour talks of last 4 weeks is available here [Lenten Mission](#)

**Trócaire** are appealing to you to continue your support this Lent. Resources, prayers and videos are available on [www.trocaire.org](http://www.trocaire.org) and donations can be made to the Lent campaign in the following ways:

1. By collecting a Trócaire box at the back of the church.
2. Online at [www.trocaire.org](http://www.trocaire.org)
3. By phone: 0800 912 1200 (NI) or 1850 408 408 (ROI)

The contents of each and every Trócaire box, no matter how small, come together to make a significant difference. This virus knows no borders, but neither does our compassion.

**Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa** Preacher of the Papal Household delivers this week's Lenten sermon to Pope Francis [Read more](#)

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### **Rest in Peace**

#### **Deaths:**

**Rosemary Bradley**, late of Rushcroft Gardens, wife of Francis who died in Spain

#### **Anniversaries:**

Patricia O'Brien, Ann Phillips, Terry McNutt, Lena Ferry, Danny Doherty, Jim McGill, Jim Henry, Gerry McIntyre, Paddy Brown, Mary Ellen Gallagher, Jimmy Gallagher, Seamus McDowell, Marion Gibbons, Johnny Sharkey, Anne Monaghan, Mandy Lyttle.

### **A Spiritual Communion**

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 at least spiritually 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. Amen.



### **Contact Details**

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