

PORTLAOISE
PARISH
**link
Up**

5th April 2020


Palm Sunday

*Palm
Sunday*




Today is Palm Sunday which
Marks Jesus triumphal entry
Into Jerusalem. It is
Also the beginning of the
Holy Week



The Parish Centre 057 8621142

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Parish and Diocesan Websites: www.portlaoiseparish.ie www.kandle.ie

Sing Hosanna



Jesus' humble parade into Jerusalem sparked the patriotic fervour of the crowds. They spread palms for his donkey and sang 'Hosanna'. The trouble is they were getting excited for all the wrong reasons. Here was a man, they thought, who could challenge the Roman Empire a great new political leader. Their interest in Jesus quickly dissolves by the end of the week. After all, what good is a dead messiah to them? Of course, Jesus might have been able to give them what they wanted, but what point would there have been in overthrowing an oppressive regime? It might have made him very popular in his day, but two thousand years down the line it would have made very little impression on the rest of us. Instead Jesus offers the bigger picture, a picture that would mean something to every man woman and child of every era from then on. Sadly the crowds are not ready to fathom this.

If we were able to be in church on this day we would be singing 'Hosanna' and waving our palms. However, today we do it for the right reasons. We do not follow Jesus because we think he is some kind of magician who can rescue us from an oppressive world. We understand that accepting our crosses in life, and impacting our world with courage, self-giving, humility, and love is what Holy Week is all about.

Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed are you, who have come in your
abundant mercy!

Priests of the Parish



Msgr. John Byrne P.P.V.G.
Tel: 057 8621142



Fr. Ciprian Matei C.C.
Tel: 057 8509998



Fr. David Vard C.C.
Tel: 057 8661139



Fr. Eddie Lalor C.C.
Tel: 057 8661605



Fr. Tom O'Connor P.E.
(Parish Chaplain)

To contact the Priest on Duty:
Parish Centre during office hours
Tel: 057 8621142
Outside office hours
in emergency only
Tel: 057 8621364

Safeguarding

All safeguarding statements and policies can
viewed on our website and our Church
Porches.

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person
Mick Daly dlp@kandle.ie

Parish Centre



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Parish Secretaries Michelle Bartley
Agnieszka Kaczmarek

Accounts Michelle Conroy

Sacristans Parish Church

Sr. Sybil and Sr. Julie

(Sacristy phone attended prior to Mass times)

All Masses and services from the Parish Church
are live streamed www.portlaoiseparish.ie



Secretary: Julie Conroy
Monday to Thursday
11am to 1pm & 2.15pm to 5pm
057-8692154

Advertising deadline: 12 noon Wednesday
Subject to availability of space
E-mail: linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie

PARISH SHOP
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Easter Triduum

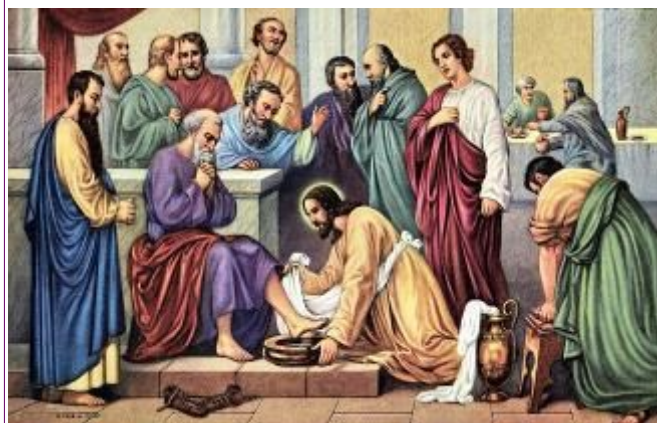
The term triduum means 'three days.' The three days are counted as the Hebrews counted their days, from dusk to dusk. Therefore, the three days of the Easter triduum are from dusk on Holy Thursday to dusk on Good Friday (day one), dusk on Good Friday to dusk on Holy Saturday (day two), and dusk on Holy Saturday to dusk on Easter Sunday (day three). We do not spend all of the three days in church, but at various times during those days, we are in normal circumstances called to church to gather and remember together. The Triduum tells an ongoing story, and we would normally try to make all the services. **This year of course, because we are in lockdown, we cannot make these services, but we can remember on each of the three days the different parts of the story.**

Good Friday

On this day we remember the events of Jesus' suffering and death. This is a solemn day but it's a momentous day too. In hindsight we know that this is not the end. We look forward to Easter when Jesus rises from the dead and invites us to share the same destiny. Non-Christians around the world might see the Cross as an instrument of torture. We celebrate it as a symbol of victory over death.



Holy Thursday



"I give you a new commandment: love one another just as I have loved you,"
says the Lord.

Jesus ties a towel around his waist and washes the disciples' feet. This is the Christian message we are to take on board. We must learn to sacrifice our own needs and put each other first regardless of status. Jesus is asking us to love each other as he loves us.

Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil)

This is the night when Jesus passes from death to life. This is the night when we celebrate light, salvation, and renewal of baptismal promises. On this night we are challenged to bring light to a world still darkened by disbelief.



Holy Saturday, or the 'Easter Vigil', is the close of the season of Lent and penance and the beginning of paschal time, which is one of rejoicing.

OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR THOSE WHO DIED RECENTLY

Bernard Devaney
Newpark



Darragh Fennell, Ballyroan
& formerly Coote Street



Joseph Hogan
Powerscourt, Abbeyleix Road

Carmel Ritchie
Riverview

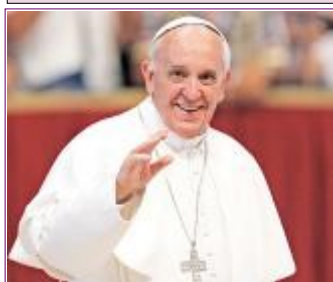
MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Our sympathy to their families

**Let us pray for the many people who are dying
alone, without being able to say goodbye
to their loved ones.**

**Let us pray also for the families who
cannot accompany their loved ones
on that journey.**

Pope Francis - March 2020



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for April 2020

Overcoming Addiction

**People succeed in overcoming
an addiction when they
recognise that the addiction interferes with
something they value and when they develop the
confidence that they can change.**

Quitting may take several tries, and people may not stop smoking, drinking or using drugs altogether. But eventually sufferers can succeed in shaking dependence, and so it is not good for any of us to develop a fatalistic attitude towards someone else's, or our own addiction. The more encouragement and support we receive, the more likely we are to quit damaging patterns of behaviour. This month we are invited to join Pope Francis' prayer intention that **"...those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied."**

Seeing your Life through the Lens

Gospel Matthew 25:14-27:66

The account of the Passion is a vivid story with a variety of characters and much action. To enter into the passage we can read the story slowly and see if we can identify with different characters. Also, any one scene can provide us with much food for reflection and prayer. Keep in mind that one of the aims in reflecting on the passage is to discover the *good news* the story has for us. Here are some pointers for prayer.

1. Jesus is revealed as Messiah and Son of God, not with a display of human power, but as one who was prepared to suffer unto death to show us how our God loves us. How does the Passion story speak to you as a revelation of how God loves you? When has the willingness of another person to go to great lengths on your behalf been an eye-opener regarding their love for you?

2. Jesus gives us an example of patient endurance and faithfulness in suffering. Suffering is something we all encounter. It is not something that anyone likes, but sometimes we cope with it better than others. What have you found helps you to cope better with suffering?

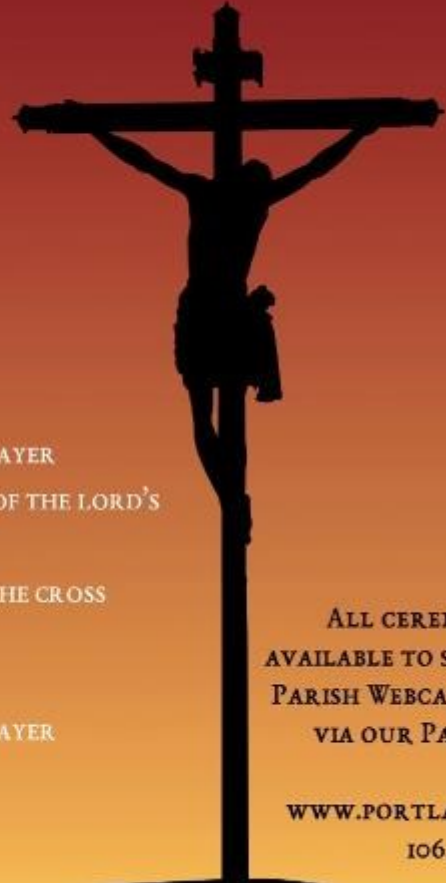
3. As you read through the narrative of the Passion, where do you find yourself resonating with a character in the action? Is there any message for you that is life giving?

On Sunday (Palm Sunday) why not follow our readings on our parish website:

http://www.portlaoiseparish.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Passion_Sunday_2020A-optimised.pdf

PORTLAOISE PARISH

HOLY WEEK



Palm Sunday

10AM MASS

Monday - Wednesday

8AM MORNING PRAYER

9.30AM ROSARY

10AM MASS

3PM STATIONS OF THE CROSS

7PM EVENING PRAYER AND

ROSARY

Holy Thursday

9.30AM ROSARY

10AM MORNING PRAYER

7PM MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Good Friday

9.30AM ROSARY

10AM MORNING PRAYER

3PM CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S
PASSION

7PM STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Holy Saturday

9.30AM ROSARY

10AM MORNING PRAYER

9PM EASTER VIGIL

Easter Sunday

10AM MASS

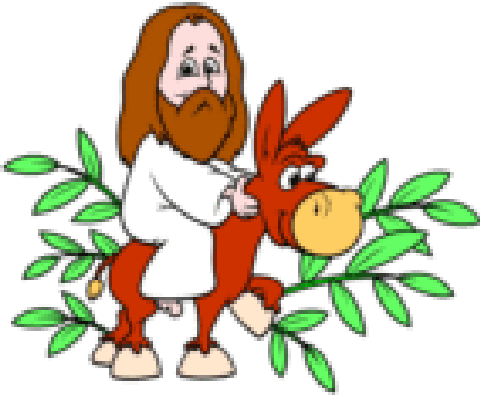
ALL CEREMONIES ARE
AVAILABLE TO STREAM VIA OUR
PARISH WEBCAM OR LISTEN TO
VIA OUR PARISH RADIO

WWW.PORTLAOISEPARISH.IE
106.5FM



*The light shines in
THE DARKNESS, AND
THE DARKNESS HAS
NOT OVERCOME IT.*

JOHN 1:5



Lay Your Cloak Before Him

In the day when Jesus lived, many people wore a garment called a cloak. It was a loose outer garment similar to the cape that the super heroes wore. It provided them protection against the harsh winds and blowing sand in the desert. It also provided protection from the hot desert sun. In our Bible lesson today, we will see a very unusual way the people used their cloaks.

Jesus and his disciples were walking toward Jerusalem and had stopped near a small village called Bethphage. Jesus sent two of his disciples to go on ahead into the village. He told them that when they got there, they would find a donkey and her colt which they were to bring back to him. Of course the disciples were a bit concerned because they imagined that these animals might belong to someone who might not appreciate having their animals taken. Jesus simply told them, "Tell them that the Lord needs them and they will let you have them." So the disciples went into town and sure enough, there was a donkey and her colt. They grabbed them and as they were leaving, someone asked why they were taking the animals. They answered, "It is for the Lord." And the people let them take them just as Jesus had said they would. When they arrived back at the camp, the disciples took their cloaks and put them on the donkey to make a nice soft seat for Jesus. Jesus got on the donkey and headed toward Jerusalem.

When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, a very large crowd gathered to welcome him. Some of them spread their cloaks on the road for Jesus to ride on, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Why would they do that? They were treating Jesus like a king!

The Bible tells us that the crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted:

"Hosanna to the Son of David!"
"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"
"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"



Dear Jesus

Jesus, come into our lives and create in us a new heart. May we excitedly welcome you just as those that awaited your arrival in Jerusalem did. Thank you for being here with us. We praise you Lord!

Amen.





The Triumphal Entry



Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the story.

Jesus sent two _____, saying to them, "Go to the _____ ahead of you, and at once you will find a _____ tied there, with her _____ by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. A very large _____ spread their _____ on the road, while others cut _____.

From the trees and spread them on the _____.

The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed _____.

"_____ to the Son of David!"

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

"Hosanna in the highest!"

BRANCHES	COLT	DISCIPLES
HOSANNA	SHOUTED	CLOAKS
CROWD	DONKEY	ROAD
		VILLAGE

LAUGH-A-MINUTE

Q. Why do bees hum?

A. Because they don't know the words.

LAUGH-A-MINUTE

Q. When is the best time to go to bed?

A. Anytime, the bed won't come to you.

Q. Why did the young boy take his scooter to bed?

A. He didn't want to walk in his sleep.





Palm Sunday

Prayer

Open wide the gates of the city,
Open wide the gates of our churches,
Open wide the gates of our hearts,
Open wide the gates of our minds,
That we might welcome the God who comes, not dressed as a king, not riding a stallion, but, on the back of a donkey, dressed as an itinerant preacher. Give us ears to hear his words, and grant that unlike those who shouted 'hosanna' on the first day of the week and 'crucify him' five days later that we will remain faithful to the king of kings.

With Mary we pray:
Hail Mary...

Reading

Instead of the Passion, we suggest reading the text of the Gospel for the Procession with Palm branches (Mt.21:1-11). The entire Passion is too long. This text also has the advantage of allowing people to concentrate on the coming of Christ into their lives at the end of this time of Lent. Read the text a number of times, allowing due time for quiet reflection.

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

Second Reading: Phil. 2:6-11

Gospel: Matt. 26:14-27, 66

Read the Text

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matt. 21:1-11

When they were near Jerusalem and had come in sight of Bethphage on the

Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, *Go to the village facing you, and you will immediately find a tethered donkey and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you are to say, 'The Master needs them and will send them back directly.'* This took place to fulfil the prophecy: *Say to the daughter of Zion: Look, your king comes to you: he is humble, he rides on a donkey and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.*

So, the disciples went out and did as Jesus had told them. They brought the donkey and the colt, then they laid their cloaks on their backs and he sat on them. Great crowds of people spread their cloaks on the road, while others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them in his path. The crowds who went in front of him and those who followed were all shouting: *'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heavens!'* And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil. *'Who is this?'* people asked, and the crowds answered, *'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'*

Words/Phrases

Suggest that each person says a word or a phrase which stayed with them from the reading (*with no comment from anyone else*).

Reflection

'My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass me by. Nevertheless, let it be as you, not I, would have it.'

What a roller coaster of a week lies ahead for you, Jesus. Hosanna to the Son of David! on Sunday and Crucify him Crucify him on Friday. What makes it even more unbearable for you is that you know what lies ahead. 'Jesus had now finished all he wanted to say, and he told

his disciples, "It will be Passover, as you know, in two days' time, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified". But at least you have your friends, your companions who have shared your life for the last three years, your apostles who have seen your wonderful work. But no, that is not what happens. One of your chosen will betray you and you know this. 'I tell you solemnly, one of you is about to betray me.' Still Jesus you went ahead. You shared the bread and wine with Judas who was going to betray you. But surely you can depend on Peter, who was blessed to recognise that 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God'. You must be delighted when Peter tells you that even if all the rest leave you, he will not. 'Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.' Again, you know that in a short space of time Peter will deny even knowing you, the same Peter who witnessed your transfiguration. And still you continue on the journey. Maybe things will improve when you go to pray and bring Peter, James and John with you into the garden. Jesus even when they saw your sadness and distress and you asked them to keep awake with you, they let you down. They slept. Three times you asked your Father to take away this cup, and three times you agree to do what your Father wished. How alone you must have felt. Everything was now falling apart, and your trusted companions were deserting you.

Allow for a period of five to ten minutes' silence.

Prayer

**R. Enfold us Lord in your love.
O Lord hear us we pray.
O Lord give us your love.**

- How easy it would be for us Jesus to pledge our allegiance to you and state that we will never betray you. As with Judas you have shared

your body and blood with us and yes, we too have betrayed you in so many ways.

- Like Peter, we want to shout out that we will never desert you, but again we both know that is not true.
- During this Holy Week Lord open our eyes to see you in all who are suffering and are alone and broken. Give us the strength and courage to respond.

Final Thought

The Guest House

This being human is a guest house.
Every morning a new arrival.

A joy, a depression, a meanness,
some momentary awareness comes
as an unexpected visitor.

Welcome and entertain them all!
Even if they are a crowd of sorrows,
who violently sweep your house
empty of its furniture,
still, treat each guest honourably.
He may be clearing you out
for some new delight.

The dark thought, the shame, the malice.
Meet them at the door laughing,
and invite them in.

Be grateful for whatever comes.
Because each has been sent
as a guide from beyond.

(Jalāl ad-Dīn Muhammad Rūmī)



TIME TO THINK!

LOCKDOWN

Lockdown -

Yes there is fear.

Yes there is isolation.

Yes there is panic buying.

Yes there is sickness.

Yes there is even death.

But,

they say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise you can hear the birds again.

They say that after just a few weeks of quiet the sky is no longer thick with fumes but blue and grey and clear.

They say that in the streets of Assisi people are singing to each other across the empty squares, keeping their windows open so that those who are alone may hear the sounds of family around them.

They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman I know is busy spreading fliers with her number through the neighbourhood so that the elders may have someone to call on.

Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples are preparing to welcome and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary

all over the world people are slowing down and reflecting

all over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way

all over the world people are waking up to a new reality

to how big we really are.

To how little control we really have.

To what really matters.

To Love.

So we pray and we remember that

Yes there is fear.

But there does not have to be hate.

Yes there is isolation.

But there does not have to be loneliness.

Yes there is panic buying.

But there does not have to be meanness.

Yes there is sickness.

But there does not have to be disease of the soul

Yes there is even death.

But there can always be a rebirth of love.

Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.

Today, breathe.

Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic

the birds are singing again

the sky is clearing,

spring is coming,

and we are always encompassed by Love.

Open the windows of your soul and though you may not be able to touch across the empty square,

Sing.



Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 17,000 followers or @AbbeyleixP or check out Paddy Byrne on Facebook.

In Loving Memory of
Sean Clancy

Old Knockmay Road.

Month's Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on **Wednesday 8th April at 10am.**

Lonely is the home without you,

Life for us, is not the same.

Sadly missed by your loving family.

Rest in Peace Sean



25th ANNIVERSARY

In Loving Memory of Our Father & Grandad

MICHAEL KERRY

Late of 48 O' Moore Place, Portlaoise.

Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on Easter Sunday 12th April at 10am.

*Lonely is the home without you,
Life to us is not the same,
All the world would be like Heaven,
If we could have you back again.*

Sadly missed by all his loving family and friends.

May Michael Rest in Peace



Laois Alzheimer's Society

Due to Coronavirus (COVID-19) Laois Alzheimer's Society Resource Centre at 47 Main Street Portlaoise is closed but if you need to meet Ann please ring in advance on 086 8372168 as she is working from home.

We have cancelled all Social Clubs and Support Group for moment and we will take advice as to when we can resume these and reopen the office.

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland National Helpline 1800 341 341 For any information on dementia contact Ann Munnelly on 057 866 3398/086 8372168 Home-care Coordinator 47 Main Street, Portlaoise, Co Laois R32 VRX8 Email amunnelly@alzheimer.ie

Mary, do you accept John as your lawfully wedded husband? If you do press [ent]. If you don't press [esc].



Trócaire Boxes

This time of year, we would usually get back a lot of boxes but that will not be possible this year, at a time when the developing world needs our help the most. If you can, please donate online or over the phone. Please do hold onto your boxes until further notice and we will be in contact about how to return them when it will be safe for people to do so.

Donations can be made online at <https://www.trocaire.org/donate/make-a-donation>



Coronavirus COVID-19

A PARISH INITIATIVE For the Elderly and

Vulnerable in our Parish

If you need any assistance during this time, to pick up prescriptions or to do some shopping, or would like to talk to someone we have a team of volunteers ready to help. Please call

085 2125978.