

Weekly Message from Fr William for Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord 2022

Dear People of St Mary's,

It's Holy Week.

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord ('Palm Sunday' for short) commemorates his entry into Jerusalem, and the Mass for Palm Sunday brings us the Gospel of the Passion. The crowds cut foliage from trees and bushes round about to strew his way. We do something similar with fronds cut from our own grounds. The Gospel of the Passion follows the three year cycle (Matthew, Mark, Luke) for Palm Sunday, this year giving Luke's account. The Good Friday celebration of the Lord's Passion gives John's account each year. There'll be no homily after the reading of the Passion on Palm Sunday and Good Friday, leaving the whole congregation with a moment to absorb.

Maundy Thursday commemorates the Supper of the Lord or the 'Last Supper' at which Jesus instituted the Sacrament of the Eucharist. It also commemorates the 'Mandatum' from which the name 'Maundy' is thought to derive. The 'Mandatum' literally means 'the commandment', when in the Gospel for this day Jesus gave his disciples the new commandment, 'love one another, just as I have loved you', exemplified in the symbolic action of washing his disciples feet. Thanks those who got back to me willing to have their foot washed. However, understandably, there is still some hesitation about this and not a sufficient number this year, so we'll do what we've done in the last two years and watch a recording of Pope Francis carrying through this important symbolic action. Let me know by email if for future years you've be willing to have a foot washed.

Good Friday. The proclamation of the Lord's Passion is followed by the Veneration of the Cross. A cross has arrived from Jerusalem which we will use for the veneration this year, made from the wood of a Holy Land Olive tree. See last week's message for more information about this and arrangements for the veneration. Worth a read if you're joining us for this.

Holy Saturday. The Easter Vigil. Since earliest times the Easter Vigil has been the night for adult baptisms. It's with great joy that Katie Bleasdale will be baptised this year at the Easter Vigil, followed by Confirmation and Holy Communion with us. Katie has been a class teacher at St Mary's Primary for several years now and is also Acting Assistant Head Teacher.

The times for the Sacred Triduum services are the same as always, and detailed on the bulletin. I hope you'll join us, and especially for the Easter Vigil.

Wishing you a holy Holy Week 2022



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, 10 april 2022