



PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (A)
SUNDAY 2ND APRIL 2023

“He was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross”

The Passion story from Matthew is bleak indeed. It starts with the betrayal by Judas and then Jesus accurately predicts that all his disciples will desert him, even Peter. No angel comes to minister to Jesus in Gethsemane and give him strength, as happens in Luke’s account. Jesus is spat at and “hit with fists” before the Sanhedrin. He is mocked right up to the point of death, and cries out, “My God, my God, why have you deserted me?” Note the cosmological dimension of the crucifixion – the sky turning dark, the earth quaking and rocks splitting. Those present must have been terrified.

The story grips us. It encompasses the best and worst of human nature. Can we empathise with the plight of Judas, who tries to undo a terrible mistake but finds that it is too late? Shall we blame the disciples for choosing sleep over prayer? Did the follower of Jesus who drew his sword and injured the high priests’ servant act unreasonably? Apparently Jesus thought so. Being a man of peace, he ordered the man to put his sword away, “for all who draw the sword will die by the sword”. Notice that it was the women following Jesus who stayed with him right up to the end, even though they were kept at a distance.

Elements of the story will resonate with all of us, for what they reflect about human nature. It was this very humanity that Jesus embraced. Jesus was betrayed by practically everybody, but he did not betray our humanity. That he could do this is the foundation of our ultimate hope, not only in God, but in humanity too.

Where do we see ourselves on Palm Sunday? Do we recognise elements of ourselves in the cheering crowd, yelling for a messiah that might free them from oppressive overlords, but then turning against him; in the disciples who ran away when Jesus was arrested; in the Roman soldiers, given the dirty job of executing criminals; in the thieves who taunted a fellow sufferer? When we wave our crosses of palms, we recognise the cross mirrored in us, the universal family of the people of God.



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Sunday 2nd April 2023

Parish Diary

Sunday Masses	10.00 am & 6.30 pm
Weekday Masses	9.00 am
Wednesdays	9.00 am – Eucharistic Service – Office Closed
Friday	Adoration following 9.00 am Mass
Holy Days of Obligation	9.30am & 7.30pm
Confessions	Saturdays 9.30 am - 10.00 am
Legion of Mary	After Sunday morning mass (11.30 am onwards)
Baptisms	By Appointment (Saturdays 12.00 pm - 12.30 pm)

Liturgical Calendar

Sunday 26 th March	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Monday 3 rd April	Monday in Holy Week
Tuesday 4 th April	Tuesday in Holy Week
Wednesday 5 th April	Wednesday in Holy Week
Thursday 6 th April	Maundy Thursday
Friday 7 th April	Good Friday (Today is a day of fasting and abstinence) Solemn Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord
Saturday 8 th April	Holy Saturday
Sunday 9 th April	The Resurrection of the Lord - Solemnity

Masses & Intentions This Week

Sunday 2 nd April (Palm Sunday)	10.00 am	Anne Headd – RIP/1 st Anniversary (donor – Pat Headd)
	6.30 pm	For Parishioners
Monday 3 rd April	9.00 am	V Alexander – RIP (donor – Helen Henry)
	9.00 am	Esther Rawlings – RIP (donor – Maria Poddington)
Wednesday 5 th April	9.00 am	Eucharistic Service
Thursday 6 th April	7.30 pm	Maundy Thursday with washing of feet Followed by the Watch until 12midnight
Friday 7 th April	10.00 am	Walk of Witness – St Andrew’s Church
	3.00 pm	Liturgy of the Passion & Holy Communion
	7.30 pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday 8 th April	8.30 pm	Easter Vigil Mass
Sunday 9 th April (Easter Sunday)	10.00 am	Teresa Guidera – RIP (donor – Pauline Guidera)
	6.30 pm	For Parishioners

Kindly keep in your prayers *Gina, Nicky and Pedro* who will be receiving

the Sacraments of Initiation during the Easter Vigil service – 8th April.

Easter 2023 Timetable

Palm Sunday 2nd April

Mass with Procession of Palms 10.00 am
Evening Mass with Blessing of Palms 6.30 pm

Maundy Thursday 6th April

No morning Mass
Mass with washing of feet 7.30 pm
Followed by the Watch until 12.00 Midnight

Good Friday 7th April

No Morning Mass
Liturgy of the Passion & Holy Communion 3.00 pm
Stations of the Cross 7.30 pm

Holy Saturday 8th April

No Morning Mass
Easter Vigil Mass 8.30 pm

Easter Sunday 9th April

Morning Mass 10.00 am
Evening Mass 6.30 pm

Easter Triduum

Christ redeemed mankind and gave perfect glory to God principally through his paschal mystery; by dying he destroyed our death and by rising he restored our life. The Easter Triduum of the passion and resurrection of Christ is thus the culmination of the entire liturgical year.

Parish Notice Board

Gift Aid

"Many thanks to those who are in the Gift Aid Scheme. For those parishioners who have continued to use the Gift Aid envelopes, new numbered boxes of envelopes are at the back of the church for collection. Parishioners who are in the Gift Aid Scheme and would like to recommence using Gift Aid envelopes, if your numbered box is not there, please use one of the unnumbered boxes and put your Gift Aid number on the envelopes so that any future donation can be linked to your account.

For those in the Gift Aid Scheme who would like written confirmation of the total amount of donations they have made for the tax year ending 5 April 2023, to confirm that they will be paying a sufficient amount of tax for the Parish to reclaim or for their own tax return, please contact the Parish Secretary.

Gift Aid Declaration and Bank Mandate Forms will also be at the back of the church for those who would like to join the Gift Aid Scheme or would like to switch to online transfers.

Once again, thank you for joining the Gift Aid Scheme, which brings in extra revenue for the Parish at no extra cost to the donor.”

Social Committee

Raffle tickets for £1 will be on sale after mass on Sunday for the Easter Hamper. The draw will take place on Easter Sunday 9th April.

Parish Finance:

Weekly Collection

The collection for 26.3.23 is as follows:

Main collection: £162.43 (Envelopes: £41, LP £121.43)

Newspapers £5 - Candles £4.92 - repository £20

Hall bookings £250 (cheque)

Total banked: £442.35

Communication Desk

Holy Week Videos

Are available on The Thresholds of Hope youtube channel www.youtube.com/@thresholdsofhope2945 They are introductions to the great mysteries that we will celebrate during Holy Week. Do have a look. Like. Share. Subscribe to the channel.

Walk of Witness

The Walk of Witness is taking place once more - gathering at the war memorial outside St Andrew's from 10am-ish, leaving at 10.15 with the service on the Green at 11am. We have a speaker - Brian Busckill, the new URC minister in the area.

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound in our Parish:

Alice Briody, John Buckley, Maureen Chaliss, Anna Heneghan, Brenda Humphreys, Pat Lark, George Malaj, Margaret, Eileen McCaffery, Sheila McCurdy, Doris Mizzi, Sheila Murphy, Sheila Nugent, Mary O'Hagan, Rachel, Pradeepan Ragunathan, Mary Scully, Greta Street, Voni Tesi, Rose Yates, Claire Ryan in Emerson Court.

Anniversaries Occurring at this time – February/March

Michael Butler, Pauline Carroll, May Coleman, Nancy Cronin, Oliver Fant, Kathy Forsythe, Donal Hayes, Sue Jones, Kathleen Kenealey, Pat Kivneen, Agatha Linton, Maura Meadway, James Medlin, Peter Murray, Margaret O'Connell, Ann O'Leary, Bridget O'Leary, John Passet, Ann Russell, Justin Selvakumar, Eamonn Shanahan, James Smith, Anthony Soares, Grace Walsh, David Ward, Vincent Wright.

Parish Priest: Fr Britto Belevendran, (01708 507020)
Parish Administrator: Daphne Thomas, Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri (10am-1pm) (01708 507020)
Pastoral Team Leader: Graham Daniels (07542 588763)
Steward of the Gospel: Mandy Meadway (07801 470516)
Parish Finance: Mrs Stephanie Mallen (07983 962465)
Diocesan Safeguarding Representative: Katie Nash (07825 293308)
Hall & Lounge Bookings: English Martyrs Parish Office (01708 507020)
Church & Hall Caretaker: Mike Dineen (07415 727926)
Legion of Mary: Michael Okafor (07956 586370)

The English Martyrs Catholic Church (Diocese of Brentwood)
Parish address: 240 Alma Avenue, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 6BJ
Parish Tel.no: 01708 507020
Parish website: <http://www.englishmartyrshx.com/>
email: hornchurchem@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Founded 1955

Diocese of Brentwood

Registered Charity No. 23409