

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY - YEAR A

16th March 2008

THEME: Matthew 26: 14-27: 66

Please gather outside the main church door for the procession of the palms before Mass.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross.

Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Reconciliation times

Thursday	20th March	MASS OF THE	LORD'S SUPPER
Friday	21st March	GOOD FRIDAY	
Saturday	22nd March	HOLY SATURDAY	

PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION

There's something wonderful about a parade or procession, especially if we are in it. The most triumphal march of all time had no musical accompaniment. Jesus, humbly astride the borrowed ass, entered the gates of Jerusalem. His was a quiet procession, perhaps with only the sounds of the morning - birds chirping, the snap of palm branches underfoot, and the sporadic shouts of "Hosanna."

Thus does Jesus enter our lives. Not with the blare of trumpets and the thunderous beat of timpani, but with a quiet love that comes like the caress of a soft breeze on our faces.

The crucified God whose passion we remember today speaks loudly of love and closeness because God, through Jesus' suffering, chose to come close to all who suffer. The cross expresses this closeness, and it becomes an eloquent expression of the good and joyous news of our salvation.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Grant spiritual comfort and healing to the sick, especially:

Stephen Aldridge, Cameron Thompson, Joe Mullavey, Br Pat Keogh, Gerri Boldrini, Mary Egan, Melda McDonald, Kristi Cassandra, Allannah Barnes, Anthony Gilchrist, Rosel Free, Luke Heffernan, Reece Valta, Yela Jankovic, Karl Grica, Alvin Horn, Kate Cox, Patricia Hamill, Maureen Pidutti, Zoltan Tar, Catherine Mead, Helen Saffrey, Charles Francis, Will Carland, Maureen Fields, Patricia Barber, Ian Walters, Des O'Meara, John Williams, Gregory Cummins, Ben Harper, Joseph Doran, Nicholas Hetherington, Bess Harris, Sandra Varrasso, Effie Ray, Brenden Aldridge, Patricia Bourke, Bob Woods, Marie Cook and Luke Westaway.

Grant eternal life to:

Shawn McCallum, Ernie Rockliff, William Toohey, Cathy Hindry, Michael Kelly, Bruce Stanton, Ian Read, and all our dear ones deceased.

Anniversaries:

Claude Ryan, Frank Tanner, Monica Slattery, Alan Ferguson, Hubert McCann and all those whose anniversaries occur now.

And Also:

Bert Scammell, Anthony Kell, David Crowe, Kathleen McNamara, Lorraine Hill, and all our dear ones deceased.

LORD HEAR US

BAPTISMS

Last weekend we welcomed into God's church the following newly baptised:

FOR YOUR DIARY

EASTER CEREMONIES

Please pick up a copy of the program for the Easter Ceremonies and Confession times at each door of the church.

PROJECT COMPASSION

God calls us to care for the poorest of the poor, to give them an opportunity to reclaim their lives from the depths of poverty. This week's story comes from Fiji where Caritas Australia is supporting young farmers from the island of Taveuni with basic skills training to move to sustainable farming. Your donation to Project Compassion will support vital agricultural programs for these communities.

Please take home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of envelopes which are at the back of the church.

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land takes place on Good Friday. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment and housing. Parishes, schools orphanages and medical centres throughout the Holy Land rely very much on assistance from the Good Friday collection. The collection is also used to maintain 74 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on this Good Friday. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Please also pray that peace and harmony will become a reality in the birthplace of Jesus, the 'Prince of Peace'.

THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST

To celebrate Holy Week, Veritas Central will be screening the Mel Gibson film, 'The Passion of the Christ' on the wide-screen. Enjoy a cuppa and a chat afterwards.

Mon 17th March: 12.00-2.30pm, 5.00-7.30pm

Tues 18th March: 12.00-2.30pm, 5.00-7.30pm

Wed 19th March: 12.00-2.30pm

Thur 20th March: 12.00-2.30pm

Bookings are essential. Please call Veritas Central on 6021 8099. Persons under 15 must be accompanied by an adult or guardian - graphic violence.

INVITATION

Veritas Central has been loaned two very special two- thousand-year old coins from the time of Christ. They are on view in the locked glass cupboards at Veritas Central. You are most welcome to come and have a look at these very special pieces of Christian history. Enjoy a cuppa back in the kitchen while you're there.

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS - BLOOD SERVICE

Easter is a time for religious celebration and reflection. It is also a time when people needing emergency care, cancer patients, premature babies and burns victims rely on the generosity of blood donors to ensure blood is available when they need it. Please see the noticeboard for details of how you can help.

10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The Shrine of Divine Mercy at 'Marian Hills' celebrates its 10th anniversary on the Feast of Divine Mercy, Sunday 30th March with Bishop Hanna as the principal celebrant.

- 11.15am - confessions and rosary,
- 12.30pm - Mass followed by BYO lunch,
- 2.15pm - Eucharistic procession,
- 3.00pm - Chaplet and Benediction.

For more information please see the brochures in the porch of the church or call (02) 6927 6438.

THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- * World is losing the concept of sin, says Pope
- * Being a parent is forever

SACRED HEART PRESBYTERY TRIVIA NIGHT

To be held on 29th March at Sacred Heart Hall at 7.00pm. BYO nibbles and drinks. Supper provided. \$10.00 per person. Proceeds to support CARITAS Australia's work in East Timor. Enquiries: Leanne Michaels 6025 5912.

XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL - YEAR 7 ENROLMENTS 2009

An information Day for Year 6 students will be held on Thursday 27th March at Xavier High School from 10.00am to 2.30pm. Students from St Patrick's Albury and Holy Spirit will be bussed to and from Xavier. All students attending the Information Day will be provided with lunch. Parents of students enrolled at other schools in the Albury area should phone Xavier on 6040 6388 to register their attendance.

XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL OPEN DAY

There will be a Parent Information Evening in the Arts Centre of Xavier High School at 7.30pm on Thursday 27th March. Parents of primary students in Years 4, 5 and 6 are welcome to attend to ask questions and gain information about Xavier High School and secondary education.

XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL OPEN DAY

Xavier High School will have an Open Day on Monday 31st March from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. Student Leaders will conduct tours throughout the afternoon. RSVP to Cerina or Pauline on 6040 6388. All welcome.

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Academic Scholarships for Xavier High School are available for students entering Year 7, 9 and 11 in 2009. Application details may be obtained by contacting Mrs Cerina Meredith on 6040 6388 or email info@xh.wagga.catholic.edu.au

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH - SCHOOL FETE

The Holy Spirit Parish and School will hold their annual Fete on Sunday 4th May this year. The Fete will run from 11.00am until 3.00pm in the school grounds, corner of Mutsch and Prune Streets, adjacent to Holy Spirit Church.

SNIPPET

Children, from their conception, have the right to be able to count on their father and mother to take care of them and to accompany their growth. (Benedict XVI)