

Passion Sunday

Welcome to Mass. *At the start of Mass, we stand, holding aloft our palm as we look towards the main doors of the church, as Fr. Michael or Fr. Ciarán introduces the palm ceremony that marks the start of Holy Week. After the opening liturgy focussed on Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem we are seated to listen to the Old and New Testament readings.* During the reading of the gospel passion text you are invited to read the part of the crowd marked ‘C’ in bold writing. *We stand for the gospel reading and kneel at the time of Jesus’ death.*

***The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew***

N When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people met in council to bring about the death of Jesus. They had him bound and led away to hand him over to Pilate, the governor. When Judas, his betrayer, found that Jesus had been condemned, he was filled with remorse and took the thirty pieces back to the chief priests and elders saying,

O I have sinned, I have betrayed innocent blood.

N. They replied

**C. What is that to us? That is your concern.**

N. And flinging down the silver pieces in the sanctuary Judas made off, and went and hanged himself. The chief priests picked up the silver pieces and said,

**C It is against the Law to put this into the treasury; it is blood money.**

N So they discussed the matter and bought the potter’s field with it as a graveyard for foreigners, and this is why the field is called the Field of Blood today. The words of the prophet Jeremiah were then fulfilled: And they took the thirty silver pieces, the sum at which the precious One was priced by children of Israel, and they gave them for the potter’s field, just as the Lord directed me. Jesus, then, was brought before Pontius Pilate, the governor, and the governor put to him this question:

O Are you the king of the Jews?

N Jesus replied,

**J It is you who say it.**

N But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused to answer at all. Pilate then said to him,

O Do you not hear how many charges they have brought against you?

N But to the governor’s complete amazement, he offered no reply to any of the charges. As festival time it was the governor’s practice to release a prisoner for the people, anyone they chose. Now there was at that time a notorious prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate said to them,

O Which do you want me to release from you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?”

N For Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. Now as he was seated in the chair of judgment, his wife sent him a message,

O Have nothing to do with that man; I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him.

N The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them:

O Which of the two do you want me to release for you?

N They said,

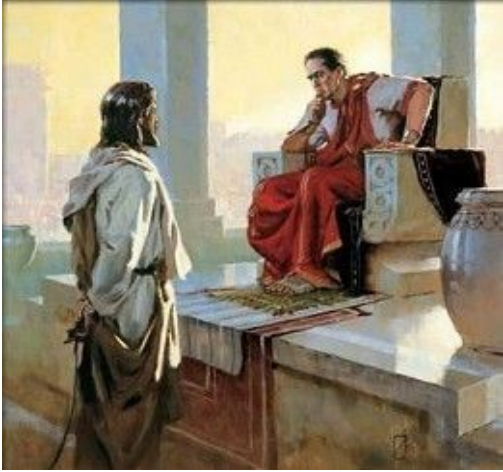
**C Barabbas**

N Pilate said to them,

O What am I do with Jesus who is called Christ?

N They all said,

**C Let him be crucified!**



N Pilate asked:

O Why? What harm has he done?

N But they shouted all the louder,

**C Let him be crucified!**

N Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said,

O I am innocent of this man’s blood. It is your concern.

N And the people, to a man, shouted back,

**C His blood be on us and on our children!**

N Then he released Barabbas for them. He ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then handed over to be crucified. The governor’s soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort round him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they chanted:

**C Hail, king of the Jews! Hail, king of the Jews!**

N And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him. On their way out , they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross. When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink mixed with gall, which he tasted but refused to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him. Above his head was placed the charge against him; it read: “ This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.” At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said.

**C So, you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God’s son, come down from the cross!**

N The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way, saying,

**C He saved others, he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He put his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, ‘I am the son of God.’**

N Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way. From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried in a loud voice,

**J Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?**

N that is ‘My God, my God, why have you deserted me?’ When some of those who stood there heard this, they said:

**C The man is calling on Elijah,**

N and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in the vinegar and putting it on a reed, gave it to him to drink. The rest of them said,

**C Wait! See if Elijah will come to save him.**

N But Jesus, again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

*All kneel and pause for a moment*

N At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in to two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to number of people. Meanwhile the centurion, together with others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said:

N In truth this was a son of God.

**The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**





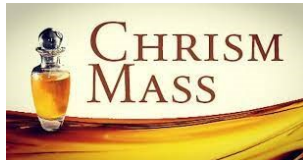


### Parish Survey

Thank you to all those who have already completed the Parish Survey. Survey Forms are available in both our churches and if you have any ideas to how we can improve our parish do let us know. A Parish Pastoral Assembly will be formed in the Autumn and the responses to our survey will help the Parish Pastoral Assembly choose four tasks to work on with our priests during their four year term. Surveys should be returned to the Survey Boxes in our Churches, to one of the priests or to the Parish Office before Easter Sunday.

### Chrism Mass 2023

The Chrism Mass will take place on Wednesday evening at 7pm in the Cathedral in Mullingar. All are welcome to attend. At this Mass the priests of the diocese renew their priestly vows before Bishop Tom and the Holy Oils to be used in our parish in the coming year are blessed. The Mass is open to everyone to attend and it would be great if parishioners from our parish made it to this important diocesan gathering. You are asked to pray for Fr. Michael and Fr. Ciarán on Wednesday as they renew their priestly vows.



### Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord’s Supper



At 8pm on Thursday evening the Sacred Triduum begins as we reflect on how the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. As part of this mass reliving Jesus’ last supper the priests of our parish wash the feet of twelve parishioners and there is a Eucharistic procession with the Ministers of the Eucharist to the Altar of Repose. A period of prayer before the blessed sacrament in the Ladychapel is open to everyone as we recall Jesus’ agony in the garden of Gethsemane the evening before he died. Night prayer is at 10.15pm.

### Good Friday – Day of Prayer, Fasting and Abstinence—Ashbourne Church will be Open Late

You are invited to pray before the cross and to meditate on the stations and the meaning of the crucifix. Our parish will have outdoor Stations at 12 noon in Ashbourne Church grounds. If the weather is against us the ‘Way of the Cross’ will take place in the church. At 3pm the main liturgy reliving Jesus’ passion will take place in Ashbourne and at 7pm the Passion of Jesus will be brought to minds and hearts in Donaghmore. Everyone, who says that they are Christian, is asked to embrace the cross and to reflect and pray on this most sacred day of fasting and abstinence. We are keeping the church open until midnight to give everyone, no matter how busy or occupied on this day, an opportunity to venerate the cross.



### Celebrating the Lord’s Resurrection



The first celebration of Easter 2023 will take place at 9pm next Saturday. Into a darkened church the new Easter candle will radiate the light of Christ. Adults and children will be welcomed into the Catholic Church as we bless Holy Water and renew our own baptismal vows. Our Masses will celebrate the new life that Jesus’ brings about through His resurrection. As we joyfully listen to the Easter readings and sing ‘Alleluia’ we celebrate the greatest news ever heard. Our churches will once again have a Easter Garden to help young and old reflect on this great mystery of faith. After the 10am Mass in Donaghmore and 11am Easter morning mass parishioners are invited to gather for hospitality.

### Holy Week Confessions

One of the best ways we can prepare for Easter is by making a good confession. There are confessions on the mornings of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday in Ashbourne Church from 10 to 11am. This sacrament powerfully reconciles us to God and restores grace to our soul when we stray from the path of loving God and his people.



Monday 10am -Maura Kearney; Tuesday 10am- Kenneth Gray, Crestwood Park (1st Anniversary); Wednesday- 10am Mass for the Priests of the Diocese; Wedding at 2pm of Elaine McKenna and Ben Holding; No Intentions on the Easter Triduum Liturgies; Holy Saturday Morning 11am Liturgy of Blessing of the Easter Food with the Polish Community; Easter Sunday-10am Donaghmore Maureen and Aubrey Weir and daughter Niamh; 11am Judy Cassidy, Cherryfield (1st Anniversary); 12.30pm Chris McLoughlin, Baltrasna (Month’s Mind) .

### Supporting Trócaire— Your Donations Help

Please return your Trócaire Box to Mass on Holy Thursday. As part of the Offertory at the Mass of our Lord’s Supper the boxes are placed in front of the altar as a reminder of our outreach to the poor. We pray for God’s blessing on the work of Trocaire as they mark 50 years of service to the Church. ‘Your love is a lifeline to a family in need in the developing world.’



### Good Friday Collection For Persecuted Christians

On Good Friday at the 3pm ceremony a collection will be taken up for the support of Christians in the Holy Places. Their plight is dire. The number of Christians has reduced dramatically and about two percent of the people at the holy sites profess faith and look after the sites of our Lord. With no pilgrimages for two years due to co-vid the Christian community in the Holy Land relies on our help.

### Easter Offering Day Envelopes

Next Sunday is one of the main Parish Offering Days in the year. Some parishioners traditionally pay their parish dues at this time. The basket collection and the envelope collection next weekend goes towards the basic salary of the two priests of our parish. If you have a box of envelopes your donation should be made in this way to help us keep account of your contributions. We thank everyone who generously supports our priests and the mission of our parish.



# We invite you to be with us as we Celebrate Holy Week in our Parish



## Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord’s Supper

Ashbourne Church – 8pm

## Good Friday – Outdoor Way of the Cross

Ashbourne Church Grounds 12 noon

## Veneration of the Cross and Celebration of the Lord’s Passion

Ashbourne 3pm and Donaghmore 7pm

## Holy Saturday Vigil and First Mass of the Lord’s Resurrection

Ashbourne 9pm

## Easter Sunday Morning Mass

Ashbourne 9am, 11am, 12.30pm

Donaghmore 10am

We look forward to celebrating together as a faith community the Sacred Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Please make every effort to attend the ceremonies and to grow in your personal relationship with the Lord. Feel free to bring home this newsletter listing to help you prioritise your participation in the ceremonies. We thank all those who are helping to organise and put together our parish liturgies. We especially thank the Ministers of the Word, Eucharist, our sacristans, stewards and our musicians for the preparations that they are making to help us celebrate the central mysteries of our faith. *Míle buíochas.*