

Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion - Year B

At the start of today's Mass, we stand, holding aloft our palm as we look towards the main entrance doors of the church. The celebrant introduces the palm ceremony that marks the start of Holy Week. After the opening liturgy focused on Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem we are seated to listen to the Old and New Testament readings. During the reading of the passion of the gospel of Mark you are invited to read the part of the crowd marked ‘C’ in bold writing in the text below. We will stand for the gospel reading and kneel for a moment’s prayer and reflection at the time of Jesus’ death.

The Lord be with You. And with your Spirit.

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Mark. Glory, O you, O Lord.

N: First thing in the morning, the chief priests together with the elders and scribes, in short the whole Sanhedrin, had their plan ready. They had Jesus bound and took him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate questioned him,

O: Are you the King of the Jews?

N: He answered:

J: It is you who say it.

N: And the chief priests brought many accusations against him. Pilate questioned him again,

O: Have you no reply at all? See how many accusations they are bringing against you!

N: But to Pilates amazement Jesus made no further reply. At festival time Pilate used to release a prisoner for them, anyone they asked for. Now a man called Barabbas was then in prison with the rioters who had committed murder during the uprising. When the crowd went up and began to ask Pilate the customary favour, Pilate answered them,

O: Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?

N: For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over. The chief priests, however, had incited the crowd to demand that he should release Barabbas for them instead. Then Pilate spoke again.

O: But in that case, what am I to do with the man you call King of the Jews?

N: They shouted back,

C: Crucify him!

N: Pilate asked them,

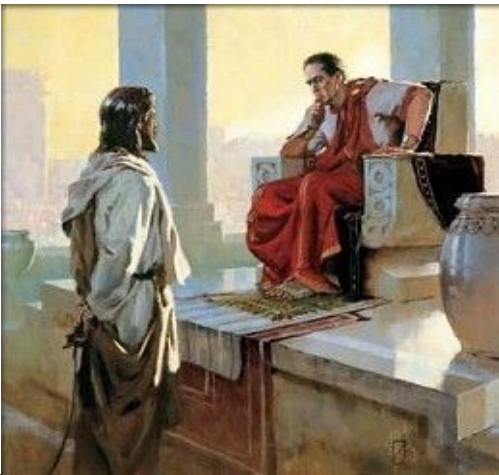
O: Why? What harm has he done?

N: But they shouted all the louder,

C: Crucify him!

N: So Pilate, anxious to placate the crowd, released Barabbas for them and, having ordered Jesus to be scourged, handed him over to be crucified. The soldiers led him away to the inner part of the palace, that is, the Praetorium, and called the whole cohort together. They dressed him up in purple, twisted some thorns into a crown and put it on him. And they began saluting him,

C: Hail, King of the Jews!



N: They struck his head with a reed and spat on him; and they went down on their knees to do him homage. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the purple garment and dressed him in his own clothes. They led him out to crucify him. They enlisted a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means the place of the skull.



They offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he refused it. Then they crucified him, and shared out his clothing, casting lots to decide what each should get. It was the third hour when they crucified him. The inscription giving the charges against him read: ‘The King of the Jews’ And they crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left. The passer- by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said:

C: Aha! So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself: come down from the cross!

N: The chief priests, and the scribes mocked him among themselves in the same way. They said,

C: He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, for us to see it and believe.

N: Even those who were crucified with him taunted him. When the sixth hour came there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

J “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachtani?

N: This means, ‘My God, my God, why have you deserted me?’” When some of those who stood by heard this, they said,

C: Listen, he is calling on Elijah.

N: Someone ran and soaked a sponge in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it to him to drink, saying,

O: Wait, and see if Elijah will come to take him down.

N: But Jesus, gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

All kneel and pause a moment. Remain kneeling as the gospel is concluded.

N: And the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The centurion, who was standing in front of him, had seen how he had died and he said,

O: In truth this man was a son of God.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ

Hymn for Palm Sunday

Hail Redeemer, King divine!
"Praise be Jesus Christ our King;
King, whose reign shall never cease,
Prince of everlasting peace.

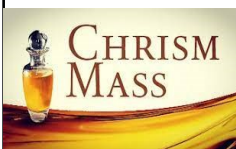
Angels, saints and nations sing :
"Praise be Jesus Christ our King;
Lord of life, earth, sky and sea,
King of love on Calvary”.

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 10.30am to 12 noon. 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.



Chrism Mass 2024



The Chrism Mass will take place on Wednesday evening at 7pm in the Cathedral of Christ the King 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, Fr. Brendan and Fr. Stephen 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 Lady Chapel 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.



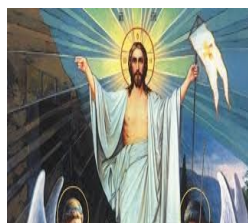
Good Friday – Day of Prayer, Fasting and Abstinence—Ashbourne Church open until Midnight



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 10am 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 and Launch of Parish Facebook Account

The first celebration of Easter 2024 will take place at 8pm 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. Their will be a Blessing of the Easter Food with the Polish Community at the end of the 9am Mass. At the 11am mass our Parish Pastoral Assembly will officially launch a new Parish Facebook Account as part of its remit to engage with social media in a positive way to communicate all that happens in our parish. After this Easter morning Mass parishioners are invited to gather for hospitality in the Parish Centre.



Clean Up For the Tridium

Volunteers are welcome to join the priests on Tuesday morning at 11am to clean Ashbourne Church in preparation for the Easter Tridium and the season of Easter. The more hands we get the greater the clean up!

Morning Prayer and Mass Intentions During Holy Week



Easter Tridium: There will be morning prayer at 10am in the chapel of Ashbourne Church on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. **Mass Intentions:** Sunday 9am: Kit Gillett; 10am Patrick and Elizabeth Murray; 11am People of the Parish; 12.30pm Peter McBride, Huntsgrove (Month’s Mind); Monday 10am—Josephine Kelly; Tuesday 10am—Carmel Campbell; Wednesday-10am Tomas Fitzsimons; Easter Sunday—9am People of the Parish, 10am Donaghmore John, Tony, Jem, Mary Therese & Patrick Clarke, 11am People of the Parish 12.30pm Gerry Ryan **Rest in Peace** Ciarán Hennelly, Greenogue.

Supporting Trócaire— Your Donations Help

Please return your Trócaire Box to Mass on Holy Thursday. The Offertory Collection at this Mass of our Lord’s Supper is a reminder of our outreach to the poor and goes towards Trócaire. We pray for God’s blessing on the work of Trocaire as they serve the global mission of the Church to help the poor in the developing world. ‘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 due to the conflict in Palestine. 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 Covid and this year’s war in the region 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 three 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 Join us as we Celebrate Holy Week in our Parish



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.

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

Donaghmore 10 am and Ashbourne 3pm

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

Ashbourne 8pm

Easter Sunday Morning Mass

Ashbourne 9am, 11am, 12.30pm

Donaghmore 10am

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.*