

**CLERGY**

Fr. Anthony Oleh, MSP — Parish Priest  
Fr. Ebuka Umekachikelu, MSP – Assistant Priest  
Rev. Robert Beresford — Deacon

The Parish office will not be staffed until further notice. The best way to contact us is by email.

Fr Anthony is available in case of an emergency or a pressing enquiry on 020 8546 4633. For non-urgent enquiries please email [kingston@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:kingston@rcaos.org.uk)

**FEAST DAYS, MEMORIALS AND MASSES  
SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2020  
PALM SUNDAY (A)**

<b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	
	Caroline Hopkins RIP
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</b>
	Anne Hall RIP
	Lugrece & Jean Ciantar RIP
	Teresa Lynch RIP
	People of the Parish
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	
	The Late Archbishop Emeritus Peter Smith RIP
<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	
	Alberta Aluisse RIP
<b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	
	Holy Souls
<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>
	Mary Mae Devine RIP
<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Good Friday</b>
	Wellbeing of Elizabeth Galligan
<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Holy Saturday</b>
	Millicent Mary Laing RIP
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b>
	Rev Fr Gerry O'Brien
	Wellbeing of David Rattray
	People of the Parish

St Agatha's Catholic Church and the Parish Office are Closed. Masses will continue to be celebrated each day WITHOUT A PUBLIC CONGREGATION, so you will still be able to book Mass Intentions. Please post any Mass Intention envelopes through the presbytery door, or email via the parish email address [kingston@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:kingston@rcaos.org.uk) Mass on Sunday will be celebrated at 12 noon.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be still be available but only on request, please contact Father by phone or email first.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND**

Please pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish: Christina Ward, Clare Horgan, John Sewter, Keith Fraser, Trish Taylor, Ryan Morrison, Philip Cockle and Melba De Silva. *Please let the Parish Office know in writing if either you or your relatives want to be mentioned on our sick list.*

**ANNIVERSARIES**

*Charles Philpot, Walter Hewitt, Mercie Young, John Malone, Michael Lynn, Ottie Hewitt, Richard Lumey, Nellie O'Brien, Mary Hobbs, Harriet Roberts, Gertrude Thompson, Marie Philomena Sinteff, Denis Kennedy, John Nash, Mabel Friend, Frederick Evenden, Theresa Mary McKay, Mary Browne. +++ May they rest in Peace +++*

**LET US REMEMBER ALL WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY**

Let us remember those who have died, those whose anniversaries occur about this time and their families, with love and affection during this time of grief. May the Lord grant eternal rest to all who have died.

And so at last the poor have hope, and the snapping jaws of the wicked are shut. ~ Job 5:16

**CORONAVIRUS UPDATE...**

Our Masses will continue to be celebrated each day WITHOUT A PUBLIC CONGREGATION, so you will still be able to book Mass Intentions. Please post any Mass Intention envelopes through the presbytery door, or email via the parish email address [kingston@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:kingston@rcaos.org.uk). Mass on Sunday will be celebrated at 12 noon and will be livestreamed from a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/agatha.kingston.92> and our website. A leaflet has been provided by the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales: When Mass cannot be celebrated publicly. Please see our website.

The sacrament of reconciliation will be still be available but only on request, please contact Father by phone or email first.

The Parish office will not be staffed until further notice. The best way to contact us is by email. Fr Anthony will be available in case of an emergency or a pressing enquiry on 020 8546 4633. For non-urgent enquiries please email: [kingston@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:kingston@rcaos.org.uk)

Our website will continue to be updated to help parishioners with their personal and family worship during this difficult time - please check on a regular basis.

**OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS**

Some people have asked how they can continue to give their offerings to the parish. If you are able to, please either make an electronic transfer or set up a standing order to the Parish Bank account. (Forms are also available on the parish website).

**Our account details are as follows:**

**Please pay: National Westminster, Kingston Marketplace**

**For the credit of: St Agatha's Roman Catholic Church**

**Bank details: Account number: 10317821**

**Sort code: 60-60-02**

**Please ensure you make the reference (that will appear on our Bank Statement) "your name" followed by "offertory".**

**We thank you for your continued generosity .**

"We must not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don't give up." ~ Galatians 6:9

**PLEASE STAY SAFE AND KEPT WELL!**

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation – Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION, CYCLE A  
SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2020**

**Gospel Reading**

*Matthew 26:14—27:66*

*Jesus is crucified, and his body is placed in the tomb. (shorter form: Matthew 27:11-54)*

**Reflection**

Today we begin Holy Week, the days during which we journey with Jesus on his way of the cross and anticipate his Resurrection on Easter. Today's liturgy begins with the procession with palms to remind us of Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem.

The events of Jesus' Passion are proclaimed in their entirety in today's Liturgy of the Word. Those events will be proclaimed again when we celebrate the liturgies of the Triduum—Holy Thursday's Mass of the Lord's Supper, the Good Friday of the Lord's Passion, and the Easter Vigil. In communities that celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation with catechumens, these liturgies take on special importance because they invite the catechumens and the community to enter together into the central mysteries of our faith. These days are indeed profound and holy.

In Cycle A, we read the Passion of Jesus as found in the Gospel of Matthew on Palm, or Passion, Sunday. (On Good Friday, we will read the Passion of Jesus from the Gospel of John). The story of Jesus' Passion and death in Matthew's Gospel focuses particularly on the obedience of Jesus to the will of his Father. As Jesus sends his disciples to prepare for Passover, he indicates that the events to come are the will of the Father (Matthew 26:18). In Jesus' prayer in the garden, he prays three times to the Father to take away the cup of suffering, but each time, Jesus concludes by affirming his obedience to the Father's will (Matthew 26:39-44). Even Matthew's description of Jesus' death shows Jesus' obedience to the Father.

Another theme of Matthew's Gospel is to show Jesus as the fulfilment of Scripture. Throughout the Passion narrative, Matthew cites and alludes to Scripture to show that the events of Jesus' Passion and death are in accordance with all that was foretold. And if the events were foretold, then God is in control. In addition, Matthew is particularly concerned that the reader does not miss the fact that Jesus is the Suffering Servant of the Old Testament.

Jesus acts in obedience to the Father even in death, so that sins may be forgiven. Matthew makes this clear in the story of the Lord's Supper. As Jesus blesses the chalice, he says: ". . . for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins." (Matthew 26:28)

While the Gospels of Matthew and Mark have many parallels in their narrative of the Passion, there are a few details worth noting that are unique to Matthew. Only Matthew indicates the price paid to Judas for betraying Jesus. The story of Judas's death is also found only in Matthew, as is the detail that Pilate's wife received a warning in a dream and that Pilate washed his hands of Jesus' death. Finally, Matthew's Gospel alone mentions the earthquakes and other phenomena that happened after Jesus' death.

Matthew places the responsibility for Jesus' death on the Sanhedrin, the chief priests and elders who were responsible for the Temple. However, the animosity that those Jewish leaders and the Jewish people demonstrate toward Jesus is not to be interpreted in ways that blame the Jewish people for Jesus' death.

Throughout Matthew's Gospel, the narrative reflects the tension that probably existed between the early Christian community and their Jewish contemporaries. At the Second Vatican Council, the Council Fathers made clear that all sinners share responsibility for the suffering and death of Jesus and that it is wrong to place blame for Jesus' Passion on the Jewish contemporaries of Jesus or on Jewish people today.

There are many vantage points from which to engage in

Jesus' Passion. In the characters of Matthew's Gospel, we find reflections of ourselves and the many ways in which we sometimes respond to Jesus. Sometimes we are like Judas, who betrays Jesus and comes to regret it. We are sometimes like Peter, who denies him, or like the disciples, who fell asleep during Jesus' darkest hour but then act rashly and violently at his arrest. Sometimes we are like Simon, who is pressed into service to help Jesus carry his cross. Sometimes we are like the leaders who fear Jesus or like Pontius Pilate, who washed his hands of the whole affair. Jesus dies so that our sins will be forgiven.

The events of Jesus' Passion, death, and Resurrection are called the Paschal Mystery. No amount of study will exhaust or explain the depth of love that Jesus showed in offering this sacrifice for us. After we have examined and studied the stories we have received about these events, we are left with one final task—to meditate on these events and on the forgiveness that Jesus' obedience won for us.

**Family Reflection**

Palm, or Passion, Sunday begins the most sacred week of the Church year—Holy Week. During these days, we prepare ourselves for Easter by prayerful reflection upon the events of Jesus' Passion and death. You might display a crucifix in a prominent place this week, as a reminder of the salvation Christ won for us. The crucifix can also be the focal point for family prayer during Holy Week.

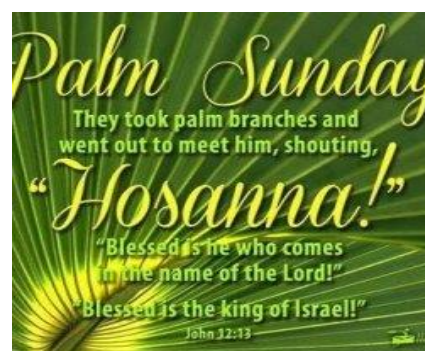
Because of the length and complexity of the Passion narrative, young children have difficulty remaining attentive when it is proclaimed in its entirety. Families can choose to read a portion of this Sunday's Gospel each day of Holy Week, providing ample opportunity for children to ask questions and respond to the events described there. In this way, the entire week can become a "way of the cross."

Each day during Holy Week, the family can gather in a prayerful space with a crucifix as the focal point. The Passion as found in Matthew's Gospel might be read as follows throughout the week:

Sun: Matthew 21:1-11  
Mon: Matthew 26:14-25  
Tues: Matthew 26:26-35  
Wed: Matthew 26:36-56  
Thurs: Matthew 26:57-27:14  
Fri: Matthew 27:15-54

After reading from the Gospel each night, the family might reflect on the reading together. Conclude your prayer time together by praying the Lord's Prayer and/or singing an appropriate hymn, such as "Jesus, Jesus," "Were You There?" or "What Wondrous Love Is This."

Sunday Connection, Loyola Press



One of the scariest questions in the Palm Sunday story....  
How will I respond when Jesus comes riding humbly into my life? Will I recognize the time of God's coming to me?  
Will I recognize and welcome God's personal visit? ~ Pastor Marty Boller, Palm Sunday: How Will You Respond?