

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD / A

9 April 2017

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 knelt to him saying:

C. 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. 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 out 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 vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it 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 a moment.

N. At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in 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 a number of people.

Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said:

C. In truth this was a son of God.

Longer form, Mt 26:14-27:66.

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

P. Pray, brethren . . .

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. Through the Passion of your Only Begotten Son, O Lord, may our reconciliation with you be near at hand, so that, though we do not merit it by our own deeds, yet by this sacrifice made once for all, we may feel already the effects of your mercy. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

PREFACE OF THE LORD'S PASSION

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God . . .

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Mt 26:42

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. Nourished with these sacred gifts, we humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, just as through the death of your Son you have brought us to hope for what we believe, so by his Resurrection you may lead us to where you call. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.

R. Thanks be to God.

REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL

NO DIFFERENT FROM THE CROWD

THE apostles have no inkling that something bad would befall their Lord and Master that week. They enter Jerusalem like conquering heroes. On hearing that Jesus is on his way to their city, the crowds line the streets awaiting his arrival. Their welcome is both spontaneous and warm: they spread their cloaks and strew tree branches on the road. As Jesus enters the city gates astride a lowly donkey, the crowds cry out, proclaiming that he is "son of David." The royal title evokes the dignity and the pride that King David had brought to Israel.

But five days later, these same crowds shout: "Crucify him!"

Holy Week is a time for remembering not only the betrayal of the people but also that of the apostles. It is the time for looking into the heart of Judas who sells out Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. Neither should we forget Peter and the rest, who in good times swear unswerving loyalty to Jesus, only to run, hide, and deny knowing him when he is on trial and suffering on the cross.

If we are honest with ourselves, we can readily put ourselves in the shoes of the crowd and the apostles. Like them, we can change our attitude toward God depending on our convenience. We say "yes" to him, to his words, but at the slightest provocation we are ready to betray him. We are obedient to his will one day and quite recalcitrant the next day.

Though we may be unfaithful, God continues to be faithful, to wait for the moment when we voluntarily accept him in Jesus, our Saviour.

FR GIL ALINSANGAN SSP

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS. We see ourselves in the crowds who cried 'Hosanna to the Son of David' one day and 'Crucify him' just a few days later. Like Peter and the other disciples we can be fickle followers of Jesus. We should not, however, imitate Judas and despair at our infidelity. Rather, we should look to Jesus who allowed his blood to be poured out for many 'for the forgiveness of sins'. Let us praise him with grateful hearts.

COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM

THE PROCESSION

The faithful, carrying palm branches, assemble either in front of the church or inside the church.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Jn 12:1; Ps 23:9-10
Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they carried palm branches and with a loud voice cried out:

Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy! O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! Who is this king of glory? He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.

Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

The Gloria is omitted.

COLLECT

P. Almighty ever-living God, who as an example of humility for the human race to follow caused our Saviour to take flesh and submit to the Cross, graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of patient suffering and so merit a share in his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isa 50:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied, he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM Ps 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24. R. v. 2

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

1. All who see me deride me. / They curl their lips, they toss their heads. / 'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him: / let him release him if this is his friend.' **R.**
2. Many dogs have surrounded me, / a band of the wicked beset me. / They tear holes in my hands and my feet, / I can count every one of my bones. **R.**
3. They divide my clothing among them. / They cast lots for my robe. / O Lord, do not leave me alone, / my strength, make haste to help me! **R.**
4. I will tell of your name to my brethren / and praise you where they are assembled. / 'You who fear the Lord give him praise; / all sons of Jacob, give him glory. / Revere him, Israel's sons.' **R.**

SECOND READING

Phil 2:6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Phil 2:8-9

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!

GOSPEL

Mt 27:11-54

P. The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
(**N.** Narrator **J.** Jesus **O.** Other single speaker **C.** Crowd, or more than one other speaker)

N. Jesus, then, was brought before 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.

At 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 for 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 judgement, 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 to 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.



THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF ROSE BAY AND DOVER HEIGHTS



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

◆ We begin this weekend the most solemn week of the Church's year as we remember together:

**The Institution of the Eucharist
The Saving Passion and Death of Jesus
Jesus Risen! – the Empty Tomb**

I pray that we participate in these days of grace and new life. I ask the Lord to be close to each of us as we come together as parish communities to celebrate the passionate love of God for each of us and that we be transformed by the Spirit who comes with life, love, power and joy!

- ◆ The SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION in preparation for Easter will be celebrated on Tuesday 11th April at 9.30am and 7.30pm
- ◆ I will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation after the 'Celebration of the Lord's Supper' on Holy Thursday 13th April
- ◆ I sincerely thank all the parishioners who have volunteered to minister in the parishes during the Paschal Triduum
- ◆ The Good Friday collection is given to the custodians of the Holy Land (Franciscan Friars)
- ◆ I ask your assistance with volunteering for ministry in the parish as:

Adult Servers – who I will assist with training

Child Protection Officer – there is information about this ministry available at the Parish Office

CATECHISTS – who teach Special Religious Education at Rose Bay Public School on Monday morning

There are sheets at the back of the Church if you can assist with these ministries or require further information

- ◆ Let us enter this week with open hearts so the Lord can speak a word of love and healing as we strive together to build the Kingdom of God through our love for each other and humble service!

Fr Chris

Praying Lent: Reconciliation from Online Ministries, www.creighton.edu

Lent is a wonderful time to celebrate the reconciling love and the healing graces our Lord offers us. Like all religious experience, it takes preparation. Reconciliation is what God does. We prepare for it by opening ourselves up, by reflecting upon the areas of darkness in our lives into which God so deeply desires to shine a light. It might begin with the simple question: Where might God be offering me forgiveness and healing?



If my answer is, "I don't know," then I have some reflection to do. I can examine my life - what I have done and what I have failed to do - and see what graces are offered me there. If I've come through that era of saying that any guilt, anything that makes me feel bad about myself, is a bad thing, to be avoided at all costs, then I might have a difficult time coming to genuine sorrow for my sins. If this is the case, I need to "go to work" on my reflection, asking God to rouse a sense of embarrassment, leading to deep sorrow, for any way I may not have been faithful, honest, loving, self-less or generous - in my relationship with God, with my family, with others. I can look at each of my responsibilities - as a citizen of a city and a country and the world, a neighbour, an employee, a member of a parish or congregation, as a parent or a spouse or as a son or daughter. God will always shine light into these important parts of our lives, to help us experience remorse and a genuine desire for forgiveness and healing. The point here is not ultimately to focus on ourselves. God always reveals us to ourselves, so that God might reveal to us our need for a Saviour. The focus is on God's reconciling, healing love. I can prepare for genuine reconciliation by preparing to better trust God's love for me, based upon two convictions:

* First, God's love is unconditional. It is not conditioned on my being better, or my overcoming anything, or even my being good at all. God just loves me. I am always precious in the eyes of the One who made me and desires to embrace me with the gift of complete freedom, in everlasting life.

* Secondly, God knows everything, including what I'm struggling with or suffering under. And, the God of all compassion, understands me and loves me. It may be that my greatest sin - the place where I need the greatest sorrow and desire for forgiveness and healing - is my lack of trust in God's complete and unconditional love for me. We can be certain that that is a gift God deeply desires to offer me.

May our Lord grant us all the gift of reconciliation, and may we all receive it and celebrate it well in the holy days ahead.

Parish Information

Parishes

St Mary Magdalene Rose Bay
835 New South Head Rd
St Therese Dover Heights,
22 Napier St

Office

Open 9am-3.30pm Tuesday-Friday
13 Ian St, Rose Bay 2029
tel 9371 7112; fax 9371 9782

admin.magdalene@bigpond.com

www.rosebaydoverheightscatholics.com.au

Parish Priest

Fr Christopher Slattery

Office Administrator

Thomas Theo

Sacramental Administrator

Tess Hardman

Celebration of the Eucharist

Rose Bay Sunday 8am, 10am, 6pm
Tues-Fri 9am; Mon 9am Communion Service
Dover Heights Sat 5pm

Baptisms

1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays 11am Rose Bay

Baptisms & Marriages

office.magdalene@bigpond.com /9371 7112

McAuley Primary School

8 Carlisle St, 9371 8786

K-6, Principal: Mrs Gerardine Guilhaus

info@mcauley.catholic.edu.au

www.mcauley.catholic.edu.au

Pastoral Council

Lucille Gravina 0411 090695

Finance Committee

Tim Lindley 9371 3295

St Vincent de Paul Society

assisting the marginalised

Mary Sri 9337 1562 Dover Heights

Canice's Kitchen

preparing meals for the homeless

Matthew Scarf 9371 9876 Dover Heights

Ministries at the Altar

Readers, Acolytes, Welcome, Wardens,

Children's Liturgy 9371 7112

Music and Choir

Harry Collins; Jo McDonald 0419 413264

State School Catechists

Narelle Hills 9327 7368

Preparing Children for Sacraments

of Eucharist, Reconciliation

& Confirmation Tess Hardman 9371 7112

Ministry to sick & frail-aged

Office 9371 7112

Preparing the Church

Marie Lee 9388 1276 Rose Bay

Nina Mahony 9371 8801 Rose Bay

Rob & Maureen Brian 9371 8519 Dover Hts

Sacristan

Nina Mahony 9371 8801

Meditation

Marilyn Jones 0401 637759 Tues 7pm

CELEBRATE EASTER AT OUR PARISHES

Tuesday 11 April Second Rite of Reconciliation – Rose Bay 9.30am & 7.30pm
Holy Thursday 13 April Mass of the Last Supper – Rose Bay 7pm Dover Heights 6pm
Adoration until 10.00pm
Good Friday 14 April Stations of the Cross – Rose Bay & Dover Heights 10am
Celebration of the Lord's Passion – Rose Bay & Dover Heights 3pm
Easter Saturday 15 April Easter Vigil Rose Bay & Dover Heights 6pm
Easter Sunday 16 April Mass Rose Bay (only) 8am, 10am & 6pm

Sacraments for Children

The Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Eucharist and Confirmation will be celebrated in our parish on these dates. Children from all local schools including McAuley Primary School will prepare together in the Church with a parent on dates to be confirmed.

Confirmation Friday 26 May at 7pm
Reconciliation Wednesday 14 June at 5pm
First Eucharist Saturday 2 September at 5pm



His wounds are not the sign that suffering is good, but that some things in life are good enough to put up with the suffering that may come as we live into them.

Robert C. Morris

Coming Events/Notices

- * **Palm Sunday Rally for Refugees**, today, 2pm, Hyde Park North to Circular Quay.
- * **St Mary's Cathedral Choir** with the Orchestra of the Antipodes at City Recital Hall. Programme featuring Bach's *Magnificat*, Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb* and Bernstein's *Chichester Psalm*. Fri 30 June, 7pm. www.cityrecitalhall.com.
- * **Waverley College annual May Procession**, Sun 7 May 2pm.
- * **Bereavement Support** latest newsletter - 'Grieving the death of a grandparent', visit www.catholiccemeteries.com.au.
- * **Meditation Group**, Tuesdays 7pm, Parish Centre. No experience needed, just come along. Marilyn Jones 0401 637759.
- * **McAuley Primary School** is now enrolling students for Kindergarten 2018. Please call 9371 8786 for an appointment.

Baptisms: This week we extend a warm welcome to *Vanessa Fauquez-Thevenet and Sebastien Thevenet and their son Hugo*, who will today receive the sacrament of Baptism. We pray that his future life be gently nourished in the midst of our parish family.

We pray for:

the sick: Bernice Miles, Ross Clifton, Michelle Jones, Paddy Nolan, Janaya Zohs, Georgia Cleaici, Fr Brian Yates, Natalie Connors, Kylie Lynch, Elaine Oong, Harry Vanda, Alan Backman, John Johnson, Mary Marando, Tom Clark, Fabien Drif, Sarah Walke.
the deceased: Joan Lovegrove, Jack Zucco, John Costello, Mary Ellen George, Bruce Conolly, Domenico & Elena Malzone, Billy Dolan, Adrian Lee, Marie Turnbull, Sonya Lineham, Mark McGowen, Anne Pohmann, John Fenech.

| Rose Bay 16 April | 8am | 10am | 6pm |
|---|---|--|--|
| Welcomer 1 st Reader 2 nd Reader Eucharistic Ministers Information Desk | Maureen Coffey Michael Aaron Danuta Aaron Carmen Kapfenstein, Lucie Priestly, Meg Wild | Stuart Green Hazel Mezger Sue Heavener, Glenys Granger, Barrie Lum Hazel Mezger | Margaret Douglas Frances Walsh Frances Walsh |
| Dover Hts 15 April Commentator Readers | 5pm Maureen Brian Marie Manché, Gabrielle Scarf, Alana Prichard, Patti McGowen | Acolyte Mark McNamara Eucharistic Ministers Amelia Scarf, Tom McNamara | Rose Bay Altar Society 14 April Tina Dahdah |