Palm Sunday – 5 April 2020

From the Padre:

I never imagined that a day would come when our Churches would be closed because of a virus. These are difficult times, and we need to come closer to Our Lord more than ever. Even though you cannot come to Church for Holy Week, we are all able to walk with Our Lord intimately through the grace of the Holy Spirit. To consciously choose to be with Him and unite our sufferings and deprivations with His passion and death, are most beneficial. It is very important to pray, especially the Rosary and to read the Sacred Scriptures following Our Lord on His journey to Calvary. This is a time of grace, permitted by Our Lord for the greater good of our souls. We are recording Masses each day (except Monday) and will record the Holy Week ceremonies so that the faithful can participate with us from their homes. You can find them on our web page: friarsofstfrancis.org and on YouTube if you search for Friars of St Francis. The Mass is usually on line by lunch time. I think we are trying to put something on Facebook as well. Let us trust Him and love Him always.
READINGS FOR MASS:

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11
"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord"

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find an ass tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, "The Lord has need of them," and he will send them immediately'. This took place to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet, saying, 'Tell the daughter of Zion, Behold, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass'. The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the ass and the colt, and put their garments on them, and he sat thereon. Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!' And when he entered Jerusalem all the city was stirred, saying, 'Who is this?' And the crowds said, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth of Galilee'.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Entrance Procession
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!
First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7
I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24
R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

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.

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.

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.

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: Philippians 2:6-11

He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

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.

Gospel Acclamation: Philippians 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!
Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate, the governor, and the governor put to him this question, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' Jesus replied, 'It is you who say it.' But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused to answer at all. Pilate then said to him, 'Do you not hear how many charges they have brought against you?' 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, 'Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?' 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, 'Have nothing to do with that man; I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him.'

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, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' they said 'Barabbas'. 'But in that case,' Pilate said to them 'what am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?' They all said, 'Let him be crucified!' 'Why?' he asked 'What harm has he done?' But they shouted all the louder, 'Let him be crucified!' 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, 'I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your concern.' And the people, to a man, shouted back, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' 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, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' 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 '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!' The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way. 'He saved others,' they said '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."' 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, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani!' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me!' When some of those who stood there heard this, they said, 'The man is calling on Elijah,' and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and putting it on a reed, gave it to him to drink. 'Wait!' said the rest of them 'and see if Elijah will come to save him.' But Jesus again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

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, 'In truth this was a son of God.'

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

* Although we cannot have **public Mass** at this time, the friars are offering Mass every day for our parishioners and offering you to God in prayer. Please be patient, as some days it takes longer to upload than others.

* We are **publishing our bulletin** each week on our web page (www.friarsofstfrancis.org).

* **Mass on our webpage:** We encourage the faithful to watch it and pray with us from home. During Holy Communion time, we ask you to make a spiritual communion. An example is as follows:

  “My Jesus I believe that you are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this time receive you sacramentally, I pray that you come into my heart spiritually. I embrace you and unite myself wholly to you. never permit me to be separated from you Amen.”

* **Sacramental programmes** are postponed until the restrictions are lifted.

* **Office Hours:** If you need to contact the Parish Secretary, we have set up a special number - 0411 266 649. This number is to be used during office hours of Tuesday – Thursday, 9.30am – 3.30pm. If you wish to contact a Priest, please use the usual office number and leave a message if unattended.

* **Daylight Savings** finishes this weekend. Please remember to turn your clocks back on Saturday night.

Parish Priest: Father Christopher Sharah FSF
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**Contributions to Planned Giving:**
*Please quote in the reference either your INITIAL & SURNAME or ENVELOPE NUMBER*
Name: St Bernadette’s Catholic Parish
BSB: 067 950
Account: 00000271
Altar Society:  G 2: Thurs. 9.30am ~ Pravin, M Flitcroft, Anthoinette
   Holy Thursday

Cleaners:  G 1: Saturday 8.15am ~ S Ballienas, L Leonardi, H Sumardji, O Poon, C Khoury, F Cahill
   J Bonner

Let us pray for all our sick relatives, friends and parishioners, especially:
Ellie Egan; Jonathon Joseph Najem; Colin Patten; Tony Karl; and all of our sick parishioners;

Let us pray for our deceased loved ones, especially:
Frieda Piesch; Ditas Spears; Paz Almeda; Brea Pelias; The Holy Souls in Purgatory; May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

Saint Michael the Archangel,
defend us in the battle; be our protection against the malice and snares of the Devil. May God restrain him, we humbly pray, and You, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the divine power cast into Hell Satan and all the other evil spirits who roam through the world seeking the ruin of souls.
Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus: have mercy on us. (3 times)
Immaculate Heart of Mary: pray for us