

St. William of York Catholic Church



PARISH PRIEST
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MASS TIMES

Sunday
8.00 am & 10.00 am

Weekdays
Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 9.30am
Thursday No Mass
Friday 7.00 pm
Saturday 5.30 pm (Vigil of Sunday)

Confessions Saturday 11.00-12.00 in church,
or by personal arrangement with Fr Jonathan

5th Sunday of Lent – see Parish Mass book pp. 176—179

2/3 April 2022

Saturday 2nd April

5.30pm Joseph Fogarty RIP
(Carr Family)

Sunday 3rd April
5th Sunday of Lent

8am Peace in our world
10.00am Children of the Parish

Monday 4th April

9.30am For the church in conflict

Tuesday 5th April

9.30am Roque Dias RIP
(Vena Dias)

Wednesday 6th April

9.30am Deceased Parishioners

Thursday 7th April

No Mass

Friday 8th April

7.00pm For the homeless

Saturday 9th April

5.30pm Peace in our world

Sunday 10th April
Palm Sunday of the
Passion of the Lord

8am Intentions of Pope Francis
10am For the Parish
and its needs

Passion Sunday

This Sunday, known as Passion Sunday, is the moment when the lights come down, and in the liturgy of the Church, the drama of our faith in Jesus, begins. At last, while our Lenten discipline continues, we can focus – for the last two weeks of Lent – on re-living and celebrating the purpose not only of Jesus's *ministry*, but of His *whole life*! His taking our flesh, living our life, addressing our needs, lowering himself to our level, suffering our pain and loss. It is the most intense period of our liturgical life, because it's the time when we discover, in a way we don't at any other time, not only who *God* truly is, but who *we* truly are too.

And we do this in the worship of the Church in very dramatic ways. The whole long tradition of the ceremonies and liturgies of Holy Week is *meant* to take us on a journey. We begin next Sunday identifying ourselves with the people who welcomed Jesus on Palm Sunday. We shall bless palms and palm crosses, wave them around, shout Hosanna, and for that moment we are glad to see Jesus and welcome him in. But during Holy Week we have to come to terms with the fact that when Jesus actually does arrive in Jerusalem he turns out not to be so welcome after all and we have to ask ourselves, 'What about us?' When Jesus arrives in *our* world, in *our* lives, are we actually glad to see him then? And if Holy Week goes well and we really begin to *understand* why it is that Jesus can seem threatening and dangerous to our comfort and safety, we shall see why, like the people in Jerusalem in the first Holy Week, we don't want him around.

Thus we move through the story, hearing day after day the Passion being read from the Gospels, learning more about God, and also about ourselves, and our overwhelming need of His forgiveness and grace. Only then can we celebrate at Easter that 'God didn't send his Son into the world to condemn it – or us – but so that through Him it would be saved.'

So we now have a week to prepare for Holy Week and Easter. Look at the programme of the week. Clear your diaries. Prepare yourselves to be able to enter together into the wonderful mysteries of Jesus's life and death. The faith and witness of the Church *depends* upon it. [Fr JMG]

Mass intentions

I want to encourage you all to take up again the practice of asking for the Mass to be said for the particular intentions of your prayers. It seems to have taken a knock during the pandemic. But the custom of requesting a priest to offer the Mass for a person or people you are praying for, even when perhaps you cannot be present yourself, is a longstanding tradition in the Church. This is because the Church considers the Mass as the greatest possible prayer of intercession and the source of strength and encouragement, uniting our prayer to the redeeming prayer of Christ. Such requests are normally associated with an offering to the priest whom you ask to pray. The offering is both a practical support to the welfare of the clergy. But also, said St Paul VI, 'by parting with something that is their own', those who ask for prayer to be offered in the Mass 'associate

themselves more firmly with Christ' and grow in eucharistic faith. The envelopes may be found in the narthex of the church, or in the pews. They can be handed to Fr Jonathan or passed to Frances Bright our parish secretary. [Fr JMG]

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT ST WILLIAM'S	
<p>9 April Vigil of Palm Sunday 16.45–17.15pm Confessions 17.30pm Vigil Mass with Blessing of Palms</p> <p>10 April Palm Sunday <i>Every effort should be made to attend the main Mass</i> 8.00 Mass 10.00 PALM PROCESSION and MASS</p> <p>11 April Monday of Holy Week 8.45–9.15 Confessions 09.30 Mass</p> <p>12 April Tuesday of Holy Week 8.45–9.15 Confessions 09.30 Mass <i>12.00 Chrism Mass in the Cathedral</i></p> <p>13 April Wednesday of Holy Week 8.45–9.15 Confessions 09.30 Mass</p>	<p>14 April Maundy Thursday 7.00–7.30pm Confessions 8.00pm MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER <i>with watch before the Altar of Repose until 10.00</i> 9.45pm Night Prayer</p> <p><i>"Let the Paschal Fast be celebrated everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible, throughout Holy Saturday also, so that the joys of Easter Sunday may be reached with a ready and clear mind." SC 110</i></p> <p>15 April Good Friday Fast Day 9.00 Stations of the Cross 10.00 Ecumenical Walk of Witness <i>Beginning here at St William's and ending at St John's</i> 12.00 Children's Stations of the Cross 3.00pm LITURGY OF GOOD FRIDAY <i>The church will remain open until 6.00</i></p> <p>16 April Holy Saturday Fast Day 10.00–11.30 Confessions 8.00pm THE EASTER VIGIL</p> <p>17 April Easter Sunday 8.00 Mass 10.00 MASS OF EASTER</p>

'A journey of joy: *not* a walk of shame!'

I used that expression in my homily on the Prodigal Son last week, when I encouraged you all 'to walk towards Jesus as the prodigal son returned to his Father' (Luke 15.18-19) The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (para 1446) reminds us that 'Christ instituted the sacrament of penance for *all* sinful members of his Church.' So then, no one is left out! It offers 'a new possibility to convert and to recover the grace of justification'. Thus no one can do without it. It is a journey of joy, not a walk of shame: and I promise no one will be turned away!

The spiritual effects of the sacrament are many and wonderful: reconciliation with God by which we receive His grace; reconciliation with the Church in the Eucharist; peace of soul, joy, and greater spiritual strength for our Christian life and witness. Which of us can be Christian *without* those things? Not me!

During Holy Week itself, in preparation for Easter, there are *considerably more opportunities* for you to seek this sacrament (see the Holy Week service listing), as well as by personal arrangement with me. If anyone wants to talk about *how* to make a good confession, just ask. [Fr JMG]

Restoring the Liturgy Group Having run successfully for many years during the Sunday 10am Mass, the Liturgy Group was postponed during the pandemic. We would like to restart this group for young children up to the age 7. If you are interested in helping to organise it, or for your child to attend it, please speak to the organiser, Fiona Chan, or Carol-Anne at Sunday 10am Mass.

Easter Spring Clean – Volunteers Needed Saturday 9th April

Thank you to our weekly cleaning teams for their sterling service each Saturday morning. A spring clean is planned for **Saturday 9th April starting at 9.30am** and additional support to our cleaning teams is sought.

Readers and altar servers for Holy Week

Additional readers and servers needed for the Easter ceremonies. Please add your name to list in the Sacristy.

Readers Rota	<u>2 April 5.30pm</u>	Lily Meghji	<u>3 April 8am</u>	Audrey Da Costa
	<u>3 April 10am</u>	Readings Derrick & family, Bidding prayers Tim & Mel Goodger		
	<u>9 April 5.30pm</u>	Martin Rush & Noreta Reece	<u>10 April 8am</u>	Georgina Martins & Freda Adzinku
	<u>10 April 10am</u>	Readings Monika Tabbarok & Carol-Anne Chandler, Bidding prayers Maureen Ruane		
Counters Rota	<u>3 April</u>	Amal Graham, Patricia Cleary, Marcello Borgese		
	<u>10 April</u>	Eddie Whittaker, Anthony Owolabi, Mary Kehoe		