Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
20th March 2016
[Year of St Luke]
‘The Week of Weeks’

HOLY WEEK

Monday: Mass at 9.30 a.m.
Way of the Cross at 2.00 p.m.

Tuesday: Mass in St Paul’s Academy at 8.25 a.m.
Mass at 9.30 a.m.
Way of the Cross at 7.00 p.m.
Charismatic Prayer Group after Way of the Cross

Wednesday: No Morning Mass or Adoration
Mass of the Chrism in Cathedral at 7.00 p.m.

Thursday: Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper at 7.00 p.m.
Night Prayer at 9.00 p.m.

Friday: Day of Fast & Abstinence
Solemn Liturgy of the Passion at 3.00 p.m.
Collection for Holy Places
Stations of the Cross in Cathedral at 7.00 p.m.

Saturday: Easter Vigil & Mass of the Resurrection at 8.00 p.m.

Sunday: Easter Day Mass at 10.00 a.m.

CONFESSIONS after Morning Mass on Monday or Tuesday and after Way of the Cross on Tuesday
PLEASE PRAY FOR:

For our recently deceased: Mabel Dailly & Marie Gowans
And for all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Marion Myles, Elizabeth Wynn, Margaret Martin, Alexina Moncur & Eddie Pallas
For those sick in hospital: Marie Kilhooley, Sheila Black, Margaret McBeth, Mairead McCann, Betty McGarry, Gerard Wilson, Kirsty Wilson, Paul Kirkwood & Jean Geekie.

And all those who are sick or housebound in our parish and receive the Eucharist each Sunday:
If someone is sick at home, please let Fr Ken or Deacon Charles know.

COLLECTIONS for March 13th
£1248 [Gift Aid was £631]
THANK YOU for your generosity

SCIAF BOXES are returned on Holy Thursday
Collection on Good Friday for HOLY PLACES
Our new Gift Aid envelopes will be issued shortly for the new Tax Year
Please let Ben or myself know if you have stopped paying Income Tax or would be willing to complete a GIFT AID form.
GOOD FRIDAY - HOLY PLACES COLLECTION

CHILDREN’S LITURGY
At 11 o'clock Mass today and on Good Friday at 3.00 p.m., then a break for Easter
Children preparing for Sacraments should collect their attendance stickers after Mass

Eucharistic Adoration will resume after Easter

FR BEATUS FUND RAISING
Our first fund raising event for Father Beatus will be a Coffee Morning to be held in the church hall on Saturday 23rd April from 10am to 12noon. Tickets are on sale for £2 which will include the tea or coffee and something to eat.
We also hope to have a couple of stalls e.g. Cake and Candy, Crafts and a raffle and to this end we are asking for donations of cake, candy, craft and raffle prizes, all of which will be gratefully accepted.
Volunteers to help on the day serving and making tea etc would be very welcome. Moyra Foley will entertain on the piano.
We hope you will all come along and support Father Beatus and at the same time get to know your fellow parishioners.
A box is at the back of the church into which all donations can be placed. At the back of the church we have some hand made Easter cards for sale costing £1, and there are also Prize Draw sheets - tickets cost £1. Each sheet has 50 numbers and the prize once all the tickets are sold will be £25. You might like to take a sheet away to your workplace.
We are hoping to have a Summer Fayre in mid summer so I would urge all you crafty people out there to start now and help us make it a huge success.
As part of the Church’s requirements to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults a new scheme is being introduced to raise awareness of pertinent issues. This new system means that every volunteer must attend level 1 training this year and then ministry specific level 2 training next year. Please let Deacon Charles know if you missed the last sessions so that a further date can be fixed after Easter.

**USE OF TOILET DURING MASS**
Recently several people have been making use of the toilet during Mass, particularly during the most important part of the Mass - the Eucharistic Prayer. This can be very distracting to others. If you wish to use the toilet during mass, and we know this is often necessary, please do so by leaving through the back door of the Church and going down the outside path to the toilet. The door to the Little Chapel will be locked during Mass.

**THE EASTER VIGIL - MOTHER OF ALL VIGILS**
Saturday Evening at 8.00 p.m.
This is the most important celebration in the Church Year

The ancient Church celebrated Holy Saturday with strict fasting in preparation of the celebration of Easter. After sundown the Christians would hold an all-night vigil, which concluded with baptism and Eucharist at the break of dawn. The same idea (if not the identical timeline) is found in the Easter Vigil today, which is the high point of the Easter Triduum and is filled with an abundance of readings, symbols, ceremony, and sacraments.

The Easter Vigil, the Church states, ranks "the mother of all vigils". Being a vigil — a time of anticipation and preparation — it takes place at night, starting at dusk. It consists of four general parts: the Service of Light, the Liturgy of the Word, Christian Initiation, and Liturgy of the Eucharist.

**THE HOLY OILS, blessed by Bishop Stephen at the Mass of Chrism**

Oil is frequently mentioned in the Old Testament in connection with the commissioning of priests, prophets and kings. It is celebrated in the psalms as a sign of joy and gladness, and even the olive branch brought back by Noah's dove in Genesis, as a sign of the flood's end, was seen by the early Church Fathers as a sign of the peace and new life that sacramental anointing would bring in the New Covenant. Likewise, the descent of the Spirit upon Christ after His Baptism in the river Jordan was taken to be the fulfilment of the promise that the Messiah would be anointed "with the oils of gladness". Christ sent His Apostles to anoint the sick, and the Apostle James tells the sick to have the presbyters of the Church do the same.

Every year, at the Chrism Mass, the bishop blesses the Oil of Catechumens, and the Oil of the Sick, and consecrates the Sacred Chrism. The Chrism Mass has traditionally been celebrated on Holy Thursday in the morning, but recent reforms suggest that it may be celebrated on a day prior to Holy Thursday. 

**Chrism** is pure olive oil mixed with balsam or perfume. Holy Chrism is used to anoint the newly baptized, to seal the candidates for Confirmation and to anoint the hands of priests and the heads of bishops at their ordination. **The Oil of Catechumens** is used with candidates for Baptism in the ceremonies and prayer and exorcism prior to Christian Initiation and is also used to anoint infants prior to their baptism. **The Oil of the Sick**, which a priest may bless in cases of necessity, is used as its name indicates, to bring comfort and support to the infirm in the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.
Where is my heart this Holy Week?

Pope Francis homily for Palm/Passion Sunday 2014 is a wonderfully simple challenge for us all as we enter Holy Week. In the midst of so much busyness, it might be easy to view Palm Sundays Gospel as 'the long gospel' to be endured! Pope Francis suggests here that we consider it a window into the whole week ahead:

"This week begins with the festive procession with olive branches: all the people welcome Jesus. The children, the young people sing, praising Jesus.

But this week proceeds into the mystery of Jesus' death and his resurrection. We've heard the Passion of the Lord. So it'll do us well to ask ourselves one question: Who am I? Who am I before my Lord? Who am I before the Jesus who enters Jerusalem amid celebration? Am I able to express my joy, to praise him? Or do I keep a distance? Who am I before the Jesus who suffers?

...Am I like Pilate? When I see that the situation's tough, I wash my hands and don't know to take my responsibility and I let them condemn - or do I condemn - people? ... Am I like those courageous women, and like Jesus' Mamma, who were there, suffering in silence? ... Where is my heart? Which of these people am I like? May this question accompany us all through this week."

The Easter Triduum holds a special place in the liturgical year because it marks the culmination of the yearly celebration in proclaiming the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Latin word *triduum* refers to a period of three days and has long been used to describe various three-day observances that prepared for a feast day through liturgy, prayer, and fasting. But it is most often used to describe the three days prior to the great feast of Easter: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday and the Easter Vigil. The General Norms for the Liturgical Year state that the Easter Triduum begins with the evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday, and "reaches its high point in the Easter Vigil.

Just as Sunday is the high point of the week, Easter is the high point of the year. The meaning of the great feast is revealed and anticipated throughout the Triduum, which brings the people of God into contact — through liturgy, symbol, and sacrament — with the central events of the life of Christ: the Last Supper, His trial and crucifixion, His time in the tomb, and His Resurrection from the dead. In this way, "the mystery of the Resurrection, in which Christ crushed death, permeates with its powerful energy our old time, until all is subjected to him". During these three days of contemplation and anticipation the liturgies emphasize the sacrificial death of Christ on the Cross, and the sacraments of baptism and the Eucharist, by which the faithful enter into the life-giving Passion of Christ and grow in hope of eternal life in Him.