



MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS



Saturday 12TH April 2025 – Saturday of the Fifth Week of Lent

9.00am Morning Mass
 9.30am Holy Rosary
 10.00am Confessions
 6.00pm Vigil Mass

People of the Parish

Edward and Kitty Doherty RIP

Sunday 13TH April 2025 – PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (C)

9.00am Mass
 11.00am Mass
 5.00pm Holy Hour

Timothy and Doreen Burke RIP
 Members of the Gammell and Flynn Family RIP

Tuesday 15TH April 2025 – Tuesday of the Holy Week

7.00pm Novena to St. Anthony
 7.30pm Evening Mass

Callum Stone Recovery Intentions

Wednesday 16TH April 2025 – Wednesday of Holy Week

10am – 5pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 11.00 am Mass of Chrism in the Cathedral

Thursday 17TH April 2025 – MAUNDY THURSDAY

8.00pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

Clive Sage RIP

Friday 18TH April 2025 – FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (GOOD FRIDAY)

9.40 am Walk of Witness – Service followed by walk
 3.00 pm Solemn Liturgy of the Passion of Our Lord
 7.30pm – 8.30pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday 19TH April 2025 – HOLY SATURDAY

8.30pm Vigil Mass

People of the Parish

Sunday 20TH April 2025 – PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (C)

9.00am Mass
 11.00am Mass

Charles Hanks RIP
 Alfred Tolman RIP



If you wish to make an offering online, this QR code can be scanned using the camera on your phone, directly to the Parish bank account, for your offering to be transferred each time. Please note Gift Aid cannot be used when donating through the QR Codes.

If you wish to set up a Standing order for weekly offerings, kindly use the details below:

Account Name: Catholic Church Wickford Our Lady of Good Counsel
Sort Code: 40-13-22
Account No: 71026216
Reference: (your surname followed by Weekly Offering)



OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

Parish Priest: Fr Britto Belevendran



61 London Road, Wickford, Essex SS12 0AW ~ Tel 01268 733219

Website: www.wickfordcatholic.com ~ Email: wickford@brcdt.org

Hall Bookings: email: wickfordcatholicalls@gmail.com / Tel: 01268 733219

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (C)

13TH APRIL 2025

Following the Prophetic Path

Luke, more than the other evangelists, emphasizes Jesus's role as prophet. He interprets the death of Jesus as a rejection of hid prophetic teaching and actions. Like all prophets, Jesus is lauded by those lifted up by his good news, but those whose privileged position is threatened by him seek to silence and kill him. In the passion narrative, we see Jesus facing deadly opposition and struggling one final time to discern what is the way to obediently bring his prophetic mission to completion. He prepares his disciples for his own death, instructing them at the Last Supper and modelling for them how they are to act as they continue his prophetic mission.

At Gethsemane, Jesus is kneeling upright, not prostrate on the ground, as Matthew and Mark portray him. He is *agonia*, or agony, which connotes intense struggle, like an athlete, straining every muscle, sweating so profusely it is as if a vein were opened. He can see what the consequences will be if he stays the course. He still has an option to retreat over the Mount of Olives and into the Judean desert. As at other turning points in his life, like his baptism and transfiguration, he feels God's reassuring presence with him, strengthening him for what lies ahead.



Once again, he chooses to be obedient to the prophetic mission entrusted to him, even if the cost is his life. It is in this sense Paul speaks of Jesus as "obedient even unto death". It is not obedience to a father who wills his son to die – for what parent would ever wish such a fate on their child? Rather, Jesus's obedience is to divine love for all humanity and to the prophetic mission to release all who are bound by sin and suffering, bringing jubilee freedom to all. It is a costly love that impels him.

At the Last Supper, Jesus interprets his impending death, saying to his disciples, "This is my body... given for you". In Luke, this gift is not one act that is thought to atone for sins but rather a lifelong self-surrender in service to the least. It is manifest in acts of healing and forgiveness right up until Jesus's last moments, when his final words are a prayer for God to forgive his executioners and of entrusting himself peacefully into God's hands (using Psalm 31), in contrast to the anguished cry of abandonment of the Markan Jesus (using Psalm 22).

As followers of such a prophet, our own obedience is modelled on his. First, prophetic obedience is enacted by turning one's ear to God morning after morning, to hear how to speak a rousing word to the weary, as Isaiah says. It also entails remembering, as Jesus said at the Last Supper – making present again his bold words and freeing actions of healing and forgiveness. As servant leaders, it also means going, like the Galilean women, to the places of death, keeping watch in solidarity with the crucified peoples of our world and continuing to protest the machinery of death, even as we ourselves risk falling victim to them.

PARISH NEWS



PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Today we recall Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and begin our journey through Holy Week. As we hold our palms and hear the Passion, may we walk with Christ in His suffering, death, and resurrection, drawing closer to the mystery of our salvation.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES FOR 2025-26 AVAILABLE NOW

The new Gift Aid envelopes for the 2025–26 tax year are now ready to be collected from the church porch. If you can't find your named box, please speak to Talitha at the Parish Office, or get in touch using the parish contact details provided above in the newsletter. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

100 CLUB – INVITATION TO JOIN OR REJOIN

An email has been sent out to parishioners regarding the **100 Club** for the year April 2025 to March 2026. This monthly fundraising draw, administered by **Gerry O'Doherty**, has raised £30,000 for the Parish since 2011. The annual subscription is **£25**, and full details, including how to make your payment, are in the email. If you didn't receive the email and would like to join or rejoin, please contact gerryodoherty01@gmail.com.

CHURCH CLEANING FOR EASTER ✨

We kindly ask for volunteers to help with cleaning the church next **Monday, 14th April at 10:00am**, to prepare for Easter **✝**. If you are available to assist, please join us on the day and have your name listed on the sign-up sheet in the church porch.

Your help would be greatly appreciated **♥** in making our church beautiful for the Easter celebrations!

MAUNDY THURSDAY – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers to have their feet washed during the **Maundy Thursday Mass on 17th April**. A sign-up sheet has been placed on the porch table for those who wish to take part in this meaningful tradition.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The final Stations of the Cross will take place on **Friday, 18th April, from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm**, led by Fr. Britto.

THE PARISH BAKE OFF

Everyone is invited to take part in 'The Parish Bake Off' on **Saturday 26th April 2025**.

Judging starts from 1 pm with 2 categories, an under 14 and an adult's category.

This is free event to enter. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet if you are baking or attending.

TEAS AND COFFEES

Join us for **teas and coffees on Sunday, 27th April, after both the 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM Masses**. We look forward to seeing you there!

FUNDRAISING – FINLAY IS RUNNING FOR FARLEIGH HOSPICE 🏃🏻‍♂️ 🎉



My name is Finlay Harman and this year as part of my 18th birthday celebrations I am running the London Marathon on **27/4/25**. I am running for Farleigh Hospice in Chelmsford where my auntie works. Through talking to my auntie, I realise the important work and support the hospice provides to people and their families at a vulnerable time in their lives. The hospice only receives 40% funding from the NHS.

I would be most grateful if you would consider sponsoring me, any amount big or small will help the hospice continue its wonderful work.

Thanks so much in advance! My just giving page

is https://www.justgiving.com/page/finlayharman?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=EM

KSC EASTER PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2025

Young people of the parish are invited to enter the Knights of St. Columba Easter Photography Competition 2025.

Themes:

The Easter & Altar Candles

Station of the Cross No. 13: Jesus is taken down from the Cross

Open to KS2, KS3, and KS4 pupils. Entries should be submitted as clear images with a Bible verse, taken using any camera (owned or borrowed with permission).

How to enter:

Email your entry as PNG/JPEG to christopherbrooks631@gmail.com by **28th April 2025** with your name, age, Key Stage, photo details, and Bible verse.

Prizes:

Local, Provincial, and National prizes available, including cash and trophies.

All additional details are displayed on the church notice board.

RED BOX APPEAL

The Red Box Appeal is a vital part of our parish's mission to support the Mill Hill Missionaries and their work in spreading the Gospel worldwide. We are grateful for the generosity of those who participate in this important initiative.

To further support the appeal, we are delighted to announce that Fr. Paul Boagey MHM will be visiting our parish on the weekend of **10th and 11th of May**. Fr. Paul will be sharing more about the mission of the Mill Hill Missionaries and the impact of your contributions.

PARISH PASTORAL MATTERS

Parishioners who wish to discuss any pastoral matters, including sacraments, paperwork, or other requests with Fr. Britto, please contact the parish office to schedule a suitable time. This is to enable Fr. Britto to offer you quality time. Thank you.

THE REPOSITORY

The repository has a lovely selection of items for sale including cards, candles & children's books. The shop is open after all the weekend masses, & some weekday masses, & by appointment. Please contact Kathleen (761195), & Sheila (767064), for details.

Both Cash & Card payments are available. Please come & visit us. We will be delighted to see you!

WALK WITH ME – A PRAYER FOR LENT 2025 BOOKLETS

The Walk with Me – A Prayer for Lent 2025 booklets are now available in the church. These booklets offer daily reflections and prayers to guide you through the Lenten season. They are on sale for £1.00 each.

NEW CTS SUNDAY MISSALS AVAILABLE

CTS Sunday Missals are now available from the repository. These missals, priced at **£19.95**, provide a complete guide to the Sunday Mass readings and prayers for the year. They are an excellent resource for deepening your spiritual life and following along with the liturgy.

FRIENDS AND RELATIVES –

Please pray for Jayne & Danny Balaam, Beniamina Bilewycz, Arthur Brittain, Mary Caruana, Theresa Eldred, Patricia Gammell, Johnny Gee, Celine Guckian, Sharon Guckian, Gabrielle & Ralphie Langridge, Margaret Livesey, John Maguire, Bridget Mahoney, Carmella Micella, Elizabeth Mooney, Cecile Narbeth, Olivia Nazareth, Margaret O'Doherty, Joy Orrock, Carmelo Piazza, Maureen Price, Conchita Prime, Carol Rushbrook, John Sheridan, Gerry Smyth, Maria Weedon, Elizabeth Arnold, Jane Williams, Gomez, Patricia McEvoy, Maureen Sullivan, Susan Freeman, Jane Davenport, Nathalie Ah-key, Amparo Thorogood, George O'Boyle, Pat McEvoy, Ann Parkinson, Nelly Prada, Michael Fitzgerald, May and Chris Carey, Doreen Green, Conrad Gomes, Peter Turner, Sr. Sior Cosgrave Una, Clairin Molloy, Patricia Graves and Keith Bottjer, Robert Turner, Patricia Price, George Ross, Frank Daniels, Geoff Ebdon, Peter Griggs, Joan Fitzgerald, Sandra Fitzgerald, Clifford Foxwell, Pat Kent, Antoniette Ambrose .

Anniversaries We pray Dominic Cummins, Vincent Gillet, Lucy Woods, George Hatch, Fr. Owen Fitzgerald, Fr. John O'Mahoney, Bridie Miuer, Kathleen O'Donnell, Karen Hetherington, Timothy Burke, Fr. William Donelan, Fr. George Duckett, Rose Pont, Hannah Kep, Mary Worthington, Mary Agnes Melady, Frederick Charles Hazell, Pamela Josephine Flynn, Bernard Holden, William Naylor, William Guckian, Christina Wells, Teresa Ann O'Meara, Harold Horam, William Stanley Raven, Violet Crouch, George Pyne, Robert Orrock.

1. DIOCESAN NEWS

Join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk in the Jubilee Year

You are invited to join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk and journey together with Catholics in England, Wales and Scotland as Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year from **Wednesday 5th March to Thursday 17th April** walking 200km over 40 days during Lent. Journey to one of the churches or shrines designated as places of pilgrimage in our diocese as part of your Big Lent Walk. Every £1 you raise will support communities like Lokho's in Kenya, experiencing the worst impact of the climate crisis, to rebuild their lives in hope.

Sign up here: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

THE SHROUD OF TURIN EXHIBITION

View a full-sized replica of the Shroud of Turin

Free admission

Wednesday 12 March – Monday 21 April

at St George's Cathedral Lambeth Road Southwark SE1 7HY

St George's Cathedral is open Monday–Friday from 7:15am–5pm,

Saturday from 9am–7pm, and Sunday from 7:30am–7pm.

The Shroud of Turin is a length of linen cloth that bears a faint image of the front & back of a crucified man - believed by many to be the actual burial Shroud used to wrap the body of Our Lord after his crucifixion, & upon which his bodily image is miraculously imprinted.

More details about the exhibition are on the Southwark Archdiocesan website:

<https://www.stgeorgescathedral.org.uk/whats-on/shroud-of-turin-exhibition-at-st-george-s-cathedral/>

And on You Tube Fr. Robert Spitzer SJ and Chris Stefanick discuss the Shroud of Turin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5xxiR37eUt8>

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS

Please save the date for the upcoming Life in the Spirit Seminars which are being held in Brentwood Cathedral Large Hall 6 Tuesday evenings (**29th April - 3rd June**). Come along to hear inspiring speakers, be filled with the Holy Spirit and travel through your own 'Holy Door' as we celebrate this Jubilee Year. More details will follow shortly.

ANNUAL MASS FOR THANKSGIVING FOR MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE

will take place in Brentwood Cathedral on **Saturday 21st June** - if you are celebrating a significant anniversary this year, please let your parish priest know. In a message for this week the lead Bishop for Marriage and Family Life, Bishop Bosco MacDonald, writes 'the hope of marriage is that it becomes a source of stability and happiness, showing us the endless love that God has for all of us. Read the whole message on the Bishops' Conference website cbcew.org.uk

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2025

Join Bishop Alan in Lourdes from **Friday 18 to Friday 25 July**. We can support those with medical needs. For further information, please 'phone Tangney Tours on 01732 886 666 or book online: [Brentwood Lourdes Pilgrimage - Tangney Tours](#)

JUBILEE 2025 – PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY

The jubilee year 2025 is inviting us to visit a holy place and obtain plenary indulgence by entering through the holy door. The parish of OUR LADY AND ALL SAINTS is arranging a pilgrimage to Italy visiting the holy places along with some tourist attractions. We will visit

THE VATICAN, ROME, ASSISI, PADUA, VENICE & PISA. DATE: **30TH AUGUST–4TH SEPTEMBER 2025** (6 DAYS). Superior 4* Hotel Accommodation. Adults and children over 9 years: £775; Children (2-9 years): £730. Single room supplement £220. For more details and to book your place, email:

frsabupariyadan@brcdt.org.

and spiritual paternity. As a widely respected sacramental theologian, a consultor to multiple Vatican dicasteries, author of numerous articles and

WALSINGHAM HOUSE TEAM 25/26

Applications are now open for the volunteer retreat team at Walsingham House. If you are in Yr13 or finishing university and enjoy working with young people, then a year on the retreat team could be the perfect next step. Live and work as part of a young Catholic Christian community, sharing your faith and helping to run retreats for the young people of Brentwood diocese. For more information then please see the website: www.bcys.net/whabbotswick/be-on-team/ or email clairebailey@brcdt.org

1. Programmes:

EASTER VIGIL READINGS

The Readings are a high point in the celebration of the Easter Vigil. In order to assist priests and people in managing these readings, Fr Adrian Gaffy has prepared commentaries on each of them. Go to www.whatgoodnews.org Click on Scripture Readings, and follow the links.

INTER FAITH DIALOGUE

An edited recording of the talk given by Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald at Gidea Park parish is now available on the website www.whatgoodnews.org The Cardinal explained how the Second Vatican Council encourages dialogue with people of other faiths, and described especially the contribution of Pope Francis to this work.

BISHOP'S CERTIFICATE IN CATECHESIS AND YOUTH MINISTRY

is an online course is designed to be an entry level qualification to help in the ongoing formation of adults involved in sacramental preparation (First Holy Communion and/or Confirmation) or youth ministry in the Diocese of Brentwood. It includes both the development of practical skills & the deepening of theological knowledge. For more information or to register your interest please email clairebailey@brcdt.org or see the website <https://bcys.net/bishops-cert/>

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING AND THE ELECTION

An edited recording of the talks given recently at Christ the Eternal High Priest Catholic Church, Gidea Park, by Raymond Friel, CEO of Caritas Social Action Network, is now available to view. Simply go to the homepage of www.whatgoodnews.org and click on the link.

2. Appeals:

CAFOD ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CRISIS APPEAL

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water, and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers.

3. Job adverts:

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Bishop Alan is seeking to appoint a Director of Education to promote and implement his vision for Catholic education within the Diocese. This is an inspiring, rewarding and fulfilling position as the Diocese serves a network of 90 schools, providing for the formation and educational needs of some 40,000 children and young people.

The successful candidate will have extensive leadership experience in an education context, a strong grasp of current educational issues (including CMATs' evolving role within the Parish, diocese and local community); excellent leadership and management skills; and a deep knowledge and understanding of Catholic education as structured in this country.

Closing date for applications: **Monday 7 April at 12 Noon**

More information here: www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us/

Vacancy at St Peter's Catholic Primary School

St Peter's Catholic Primary School in Billericay are seeking to appoint a Catering Assistant to join our established catering team preparing approximately 250 meals a day.

Candidates must have experience of a similar environment as well as a passion for great food.

For more information about the position and to apply, please visit:- <https://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=109468>

Closing date is 21.04.25

Headteacher of St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Romford

NoR 416 Salary L19-L25

Closing date: Tuesday 22 April 2025 by 12 noon

Shortlisting: Wednesday 30 April 2025

Interview: Tuesday 6 May 2025

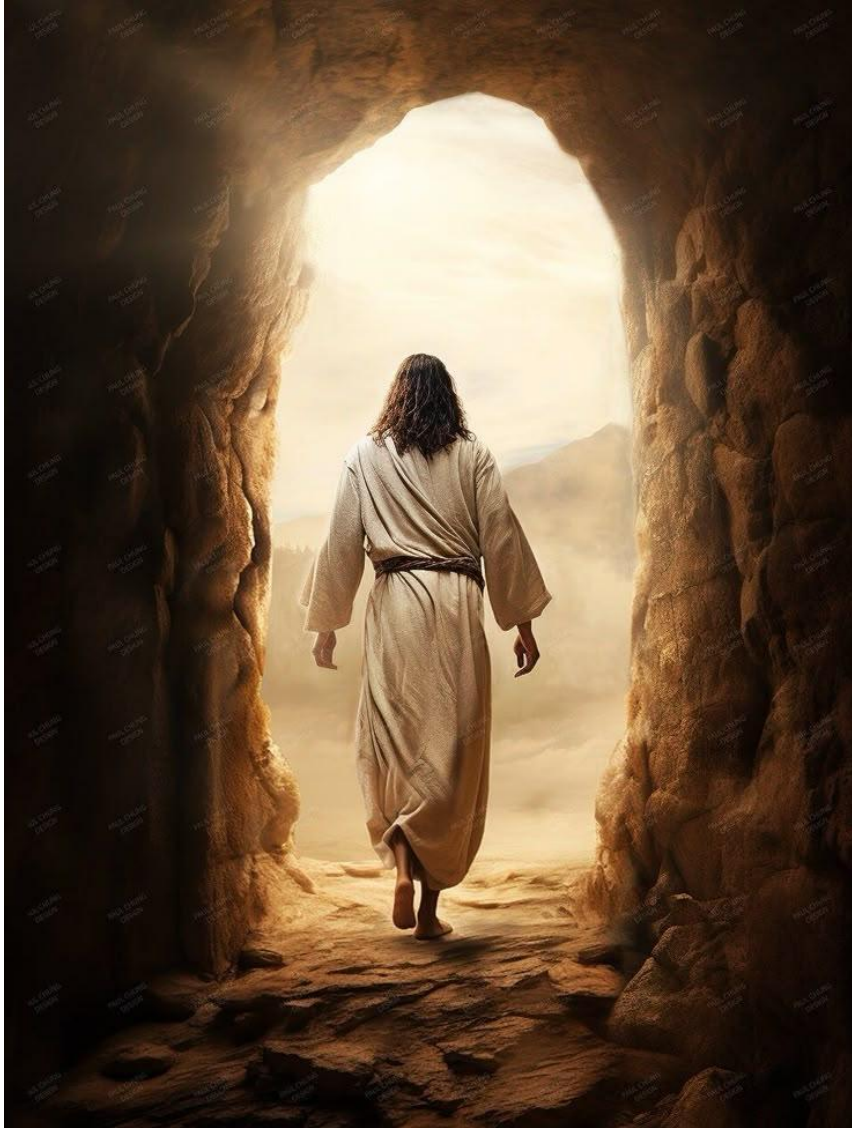
Start Date September 1st 2025 or January 1st 2025.

For further details please

see <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/>

THE CANONESSES OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE invite applications for the post of BOOKKEEPER. (Relevant skills and experience required). 20 HOURS A WEEK. Office based in Colchester CO4 3XD. For further details

please look at our website – www.canonesses.co.uk Closing date for applications May 9th, and interviews on May 23rd.



This week's Article:

Palm Sunday – The Beginning of Holy Week



This Sunday, we celebrate **Palm Sunday**, the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. As we gather in worship, we recall the powerful moment when Jesus, humble and riding on a donkey, entered the city to the jubilant cries of the crowd: "**Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!**" (Matthew 21:9). The waving of palm branches and the laying of cloaks before Him were gestures of honour, acknowledging Jesus as the King they had long awaited.

This moment of celebration marks the beginning of **Holy Week**, the most sacred time in the Christian liturgical year. It is a week that takes us from the heights of praise to the depths of sorrow, as we accompany Jesus through His Passion, death, and resurrection.

The Significance of Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday is more than just a commemoration of an event that happened two thousand years ago; it serves as a profound reminder for us today. As we process with our palms in hand, we enter into the drama of Holy Week. The palms are not just symbolic of Jesus' kingship but also of our own discipleship. They invite us to reflect on the paradox that Jesus, the King of Heaven and Earth, entered Jerusalem not in the pomp of earthly royalty but in humility. The crowd, so full of excitement and hope, was unaware that in just a few short days, the same people who cried "Hosanna" would cry "Crucify Him!"

As we join in the procession this Sunday, we participate in this ancient tradition. The palms we hold are a sign of our welcome to Jesus into our own hearts. They are a reminder of our commitment to follow Him – not only in moments of triumph but also through the trials and suffering He will face in the coming days.

The Journey of Holy Week

Palm Sunday sets the tone for the entire Holy Week journey. Following this festive entry, we move into the sobering reality of the Passion of Christ. We will hear the Passion narrative proclaimed on Sunday, where the triumph of the entry into

Jerusalem turns to the tragedy of the Cross. The liturgies of Holy Week invite us to reflect on the depth of God's love and the great sacrifice Jesus made for our salvation.

As we walk this sacred journey, we are called to reflect on the many contrasts we see – the joy of Palm Sunday followed by the sorrow of Good Friday. These moments remind us that following Jesus is not always easy, and the way of the Cross involves suffering, sacrifice, and sometimes rejection. Yet, it is through these very things that Christ brings us to new life.

A Call to Participate in Holy Week

We are invited not only to remember the events of Holy Week but to participate fully in them. The **Triduum** – the three holy days leading to Easter – begins on **Holy Thursday** with the Mass of the Lord's Supper, where we commemorate the institution of the Eucharist and Christ's call to love and serve one another. On **Good Friday**, we gather in reverence to reflect on the Passion and death of Christ, standing with Him at the foot of the Cross. Then, we celebrate the **Easter Vigil** on **Holy Saturday night**, where we rejoice in the Resurrection, the triumphant victory over death, and the hope it brings for all.

Throughout this week, we are invited to walk with Jesus, to reflect on His love, and to prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter. The events of Holy Week are not just historical facts; they are moments of transformation that shape our faith and our lives.

A Time for Reflection and Renewal

As we begin Holy Week, let us take time to reflect on our own relationship with Christ. The palms we carry are a symbol of our willingness to welcome Him into our hearts and lives. But are we ready to walk with Him through the suffering, the betrayal, and the darkness of Good Friday? Are we prepared to rise with Him in the joy of Easter?

Palm Sunday invites us to make a choice: Will we join the crowd in welcoming Jesus as our King, or will we allow the trials and distractions of life to pull us away from Him? Let us take this opportunity to recommit ourselves to following Him with faith and devotion.

May this Holy Week be a time of deep reflection, renewal, and transformation as we journey with Christ to the Cross and beyond to the joy of the Resurrection.