

Praise God!

SUNDAY *Plus*

29 MARCH 2026

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord **Divine Office Week II** Year A



Why an ass? Was it simply that he was tired? It hardly seems likely, for Jesus, throughout the Gospel narrative, seems to have been a very vigorous walker. Probably he wished to give some ceremony to his last entry into the city, but there was nothing very dignified in such a mount... The significance of the choice becomes evident when we remember that, throughout the Old Testament, the ass is the symbol of peace, humility and a quiet life, while the horse is the symbol of war, rapine and luxury... by the choice of this humble mount, Jesus gave the messianic gesture; the triumphal entry he was preparing was that foretold by the prophet Zechariah, and he wished, upon this day when the strands of his destiny were knotting together, to proclaim the fact.

It was not a Roman triumph; there were no marching legions or captives in chains...

The Pharisees, who had spies everywhere, were alarmed. They had expected that Jesus would come to Jerusalem for the Passover but they hoped he would arrive inconspicuously, as he had always done in the past. But, instead, he was being accorded a triumphal entry and ostensibly assuming the messianic pose. St Luke tells us that some of the Pharisees angrily besought Jesus to rebuke the acclaiming crowds. "I tell you, if they should keep silence," he said, "the stones will cry out instead."...

He must have entered the city by the Golden Gate... the nearest to the Temple to which Jesus immediately went.

Henri Daniel-Rops,
Jesus and His Times

Let us resolve to bring [God's] love everywhere, never forgetting that each of our sisters and brothers is a dwelling place of God and that his presence is manifested above all in the little ones, in the poor and the suffering, who ask us to be thoughtful and compassionate Christians.

Pope Leo XIV

The Donkey

When fishes flew and forests walked
And figs grew upon thorn,
Some moment when the moon was blood
Then surely, I was born.

With monstrous head and sickening cry
And ears like errant wings,
The devil's walking parody
On all four-footed things.

The tattered outlaw of the earth,
Of ancient crooked will;
Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb,
I keep my secret still.

Fools! For I also had my hour;
One far fierce hour and sweet:
There was a shout about my ears,
And palms before my feet.

G. K. Chesterton

Lord, many people are hurting and walk with you in a special way during Holy Week, Comfort them and give them the courage and strength that they need.

✚ Amen.

Feast of the week Friday 3 April Good Friday

The road to Calvary passes through the streets we tread each day. Usually, Lord, we are walking in the other direction, and so it may just happen that we encounter you, catch sight of your face, meet your gaze. We are going about our way as usual, and you are coming towards us. Your eyes look into our hearts. Then we find it hard to continue on, as if nothing happened. We can turn around, contemplate you and follow you. We can walk in your footsteps and come to realize that it was good for us to change direction.

Pope Francis, *Via Crucis* 2025



READINGS

Today:
Isaiah 50:4-7
Philippians 2:6-11
Matthew 26:14 - 27:66

Monday:
Isaiah 42:1-7
John 12:1-11

Tuesday:
Isaiah 49:1-6
John 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday:
Isaiah 50:4-9
Matthew 26:14-25

Thursday:
Christ Mass:
Isaiah 61:1-3, 6, 8-9
Apocalypse 1:5-8
Luke 4:16-21
Evening Mass:
Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-15

Friday:
The Celebration of the Passion of the Lord:
Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
John 18:1 - 19:42

Saturday:
Romans 6:3-11
Matthew 28:1-10

Next Sunday:
Acts 10:34, 37-43
Colossians 3:1-4 or
1 Corinthians 5:6-8
John 20:1-9



The Catholic Parish of St Mary & St John Fisher, Denton

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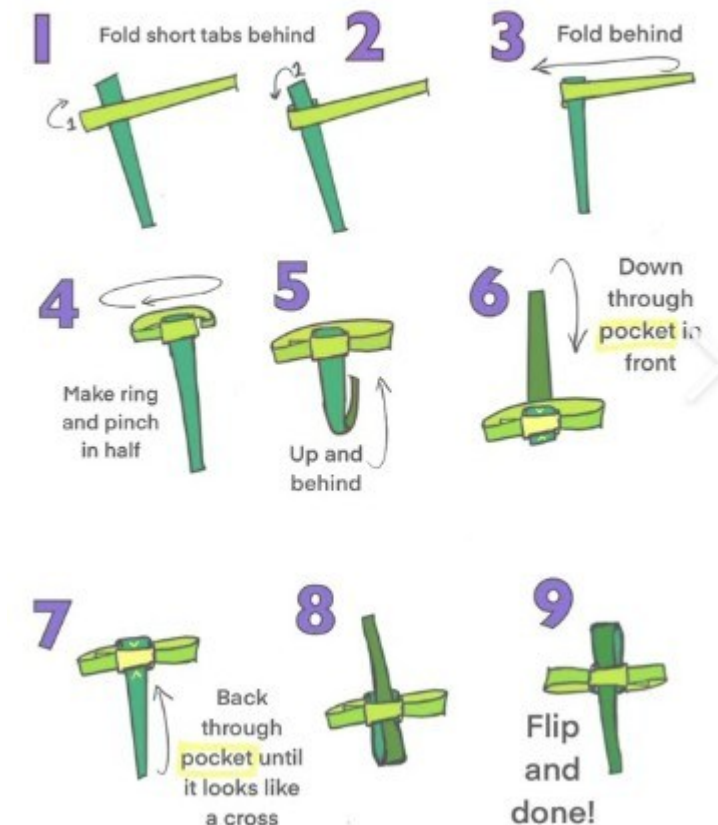
Palm Sunday 29th March 2026

The Word This Week

On Palm Sunday the long reading of the Passion dominates the celebration, and in a sense its meaning is obvious. Do not allow this, however, to detract from the other readings, which give the vital context necessary for understanding the Passion as more than just a long story. It is our story – the tale of how God achieved OUR salvation by the supreme sacrifice of Jesus Christ.



Palm Cross



Mass Times 29th March 2026		
Sunday 29th March	Palm Sunday Vigil Saturday 28th Palm Sunday Morning	<i>4pm - Special Intention</i> <i>11am - Sick & Infirm Clergy</i>
Monday 30th	Mass	<i>9.30am-- John McDonald (LD)</i>
Tuesday 31st	No Mass	
Wednesday 1st	No Mass Scripture Course	<i>No 9.30am Mass.</i> <i>10am—Church Cleaning</i> <i>11am Chrism Mass –St Patricks Collyhurst</i> <i>6.30pm– Parish Hall</i> 6.3
Thursday 2nd	<i>Maundy Thursday</i> Mass	<i>6.30pm—Mary Stokes</i> <i>Mass of the Lord’s Supper</i> <i>Watching 7-8.30pm</i>
Friday 3rd	<i>Good Friday</i>	<i>10.30am Morning Prayer & Office of Readings</i> <i>3pm –Passion of Our Lord</i>
Saturday 4th	Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass	<i>10.30am– Morning Prayer & Office of Readings</i> <i>7pm— Parish</i>
Sunday 5th	Easter Sunday	<i>11am – Anne Fleming (A)</i>
Saturday & Sunday	Sacrament of Reconciliation	<i>Available 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass</i>

Mass Offerings :- Anne Fleming (A); Tom Lally RIP

Please obtain permission from any living beneficiary of a Mass offering before sending it in.)

What’s coming up in our parish

Scripture Course

Dates for the Diary:

Wednesday Evening from 6.30m in the Parish Hall. The dates are:

2026 1st April (Holy Week); 6th May; 11th June

Faith in Action—Lourdes Fundraising Raffle

The Faith in Action group will be selling tickets to fraise funds for the Lourdes Pilgrimage. Tickets are available after the Sunday Masses, or from the Parish Office.

Tickets are £5 per strip of £2 for an individual ticket.

1st Prize—2 Tickets for Manchester City v Brentford, on Saturday 9th May.

2nd Prize—Legal Will, Curtesy of Mr John Galvin

3rd Prize—£30 voucher for a meal at the Dane Bank Pub.

Red Mission Boxes

Any Parishioners who have red mission boxes please bring them in to be emptied. The Mill Hill Fathers rely on the money raised from these boxes to finance their missionary work overseas and very much appreciate your support and generosity.

Thank you, Paula & Dorothy

SPRING FORWARD!

Daylight Saving Time

Clocks go forward

Please remember your clocks go forward this weekend

EASTER VIGIL MASS

Please note the change of Mass time to 7pm Holy Saturday 4th April.

Altar Prayer Candles W/C 29th March 2026	
The Sanctuary	Trudy Mitchell RIP Birthday Memory
Sacred Heart	Nancy Bonnar
Our Lady	Thanksgiving for Prayers answered

Vigil Mass; 4pm St Mary’s, Denton ; 5pm St Josephs, Reddish; and 6.30pm Holy Family, Dane Bank

Sunday Morning; 9am St Joseph’s, Reddish; 10am Holy Family, Dane Bank and 11am St Mary’s, Denton

Scripture Course

The next meeting will be Wednesday 1st April (Holy Week) at 6.30pm. At the meeting we will be showing a film on The Holy Sepulchre and Calvary.

Mass Of The Sacred Chrism

We have 3 tickets available if anyone if anyone would like to attend this Mass on Wednesday 1st April at 11am at St. Patricks in Collyhurst.

New Offertory Envelopes

Please collect your envelopes for the new financial year from the back of church. You should search for your name and address, as envelope numbers change each year. If you are unable to find your box please contact the office. **The New envelopes start on Sunday 12th April.** Please use your current envelopes until this date.

Church Cleaning.

If you can spare an hour or so on **Wednesday 1st April**, to help clean the church in preparation for the Easter Celebrations. Please come to church at **10am** and speak to Christine Batty.

Many hands make light work.

New Monthly youth Group for Yr4,5 & 6

As part of our young people's Faith in Action programme, **we will be offering a group for children in school years 4, 5 and 6.**

The group will take place monthly and be from 6:30pm until 7:30pm.

Our Faith in Action young people will run it (though there will be adult supervision as well) and it will consist of liturgy alongside games and activities.

There is a maximum of 20 places and this will be on a first come first serve basis. The dates are as follows; 22/04/26; 20/05/26; 17/06/26

This is a lovely opportunity to allow our Faith in Action young people to develop their skills further as well as bringing the young of the Parish together.

If you are interested in your child attending or would like any further information please could you speak to Claire Cull after Sunday mass for a parental application form.

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BRONZE
SILVER
GOLD

E	S	Y	C	S	A	O	K	S	E
C	G	E	L	E	N	C	O	L	T
L	N	K	O	H	N	E	O	E	N
O	I	N	A	C	A	C	H	V	U
A	S	O	S	N	S	P	O	I	O
K	S	D	M	A	O	I	L	L	M
S	E	O	T	R	H	A	I	L	P
L	L	N	P	B	U	V	E	A	O
I	B	K	O	R	E	T	V	G	R
V	A	E	Y	S	A	N	S	E	P

MOUNT
OLIVES
VILLAGE
DONKEY
COLT
CLOAKS
BRANCHES
HOSANNA
SON
BLESSINGS
TURMOIL
PROPHET

