

**CELEBRATION OF THE WORD 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> APRIL: STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

**Our VIRTUE OF THE WEEK IS:  
SACRIFICE**



**HOLY WEEK**



# HOLY WEEK TIMELINE

From Palm Sunday to Resurrection Sunday

JESUS' JOURNEY TO CALVARY  
SECURES OUR SALVATION

## Holy Monday

Jesus curses the fig tree & cleanses the temple, overturning the tables, declaring it a house of prayer.

(Matthew 21:12-22,  
Mark 11:15-19,  
Luke 19:45-48,  
John 2:13-17)

SUN

## Palm Sunday

Jesus makes His triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

(Matthew 21:1-11,  
Mark 11:1-11,  
Luke 19:28-44,  
John 12:12-19)

MON

## Holy Tuesday

Jesus debates with religious leaders, delivering the Olivet Discourse.

(Matthew 21:23-24:51,  
Mark 11:20-13:37,  
Luke 20:1-21:36,  
John 12:20-38)

TUE

## Spy Wednesday

Judas Iscariot agrees to betray Jesus to the chief priests for thirty pieces of silver.

(Matthew 26:12-14,  
Mark 14:10-12,  
Luke 22:3-6)

WED

## Maundy Thursday

Jesus shares the Last Supper with His disciples, institutes the Eucharist, and washes their feet.

(Matthew 26:17-75,  
Mark 14:12-72,  
Luke 22:7-62,  
John 13:1-38)

THU

## Good Friday

Jesus is arrested, tried, and crucified at Golgotha, where He dies and is later buried in a tomb.

(Matthew 27:1-62,  
Mark 15:7-47,  
Luke 22:63-23:56,  
John 18:28-19:37)

FRI

## Holy Saturday

Jesus' body rests in the tomb while His followers observe the Sabbath in mourning and anticipation.

(Matthew 27:62-66,  
Mark 16:1,  
Luke 23:56,  
John 19:40)

SAT

## Easter Sunday

Jesus rises from the dead, appearing to His followers.

(Matthew 28:1-13,  
Mark 16:1-14,  
Luke 24:1-49,  
John 20:1-23)

SUN



# Celebration of the Word Focus:

## Jesus' Love and Sacrifice Brings Salvation

**Let Us Sing:**

Lord Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary  
Pure and Holy, tried and true  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living  
Sanctuary for you.

It was you Lord  
Who sent the Saviour  
Heart and soul Lord,  
For everyone.  
It is you Lord  
Who gives me courage  
For you guide me,  
By your own hand

**Theme: St Paul's Message** -Knowing Christ is more valuable than any worldly possession

**Reading: Philippians 3: 8-14**

*8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the superior worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake, I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as nothing, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith. <sup>10</sup> I pray that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and may share His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death; <sup>11</sup> and by his act of mercy and salvation, may I attain the resurrection from the dead which he secured for me.*

**Straining Toward the Goal**

*<sup>12</sup> It is not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but that I press on, determined to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have gained salvation on my own, but only through the sacrifice of Christ. One thing I will continue to do: forgetting what lies behind, I will keep straining forward to what lies ahead. <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*





# How Will You Celebrate Palm Sunday 2025?

## HOLY WEEK BEGINS ON SUNDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL- PALM SUNDAY!



### The First Palm Sunday:

Jesus rides Into Jerusalem on a donkey to the waving of palm branches and shouts of **'Hosanna'**! The religious symbolism is rich.

### Palm Sunday Celebration in India

with children lining the streets with their parents and families singing : "**होसन्ना**" (Hōsanna).

### Palm Sunday Procession in Ireland

with believers proclaiming: **"Hosanna to the Son of David, Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"**





# INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT PALM TREES & PALM SUNDAY



1. The Palm Tree and its branches symbolize **Life Everlasting** as **palm trees are evergreens** which do not shed their leaves and they grow ever upwards towards heaven right across the world!
2. The waving of palm or olive branches (as olive branches are used in some cultures on Palm Sunday) **symbolize peace and victory**. Still today to give or receive an 'olive branch' is a sign of peace and reconciliation-restoring goodwill and harmony.
3. Historically, it was customary during Jesus' time for people to **pay homage and honour by laying palm branches or their cloaks or clothing** in front of special people to show respect. Doing so for Jesus was acknowledging that He was truly special-of high order.

The Gospel of John tells of how Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem just days before he was put to death on the Cross of Calvary:  
**"When the great crowd that had come to the feast (of the Passover) heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, they took palm branches and went out to meet him, and cried out: 'Hosanna! Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord'"**  
John 12:12-13

4. Blessed Palms received at Mass on Palm Sunday, **should NOT be thrown away or discarded**. Instead, **they should be returned to the parish Priest to be used in making the ashes for Ash Wednesday** the following year.

5. **\*According to Canon Law (1171), all blessed items are to be treated with reverence**. If there is a need to dispose of such items, they should be buried or burned.
6. **"Blessed Palm or Olive branches should not be kept as amulets, or for to dispelling evil spirits. Instead blessed Palms and Olive branches should be kept in the home as a witness to faith in Jesus Christ and in his Paschal Victory over death."** Many people across the globe hang their Palm branches and Crosses on their doors, just as we would hang a Christmas wreath or garland.
7. **Christ's Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem was foretold in the Old Testament in Zachariah 9:9** which states: "Exult greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout for joy, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold: your king is coming to you, a just savior, humble and riding on a donkey"
8. **The Palm Sunday Gospel is usually taken from the synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke (eg. Luke 22: 14-56) and recounts: The Last Supper, Jesus' agony in the garden, Judas' betrayal, Jesus' arrest and persecution Jesus' Passion.**

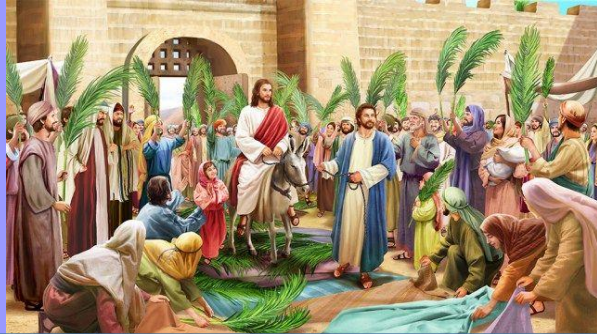




# THE MAIN EVENTS OF HOLY WEEK



## Day 1: Palm Sunday



**Jesus' Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem**

## Day 3: Holy Tuesday



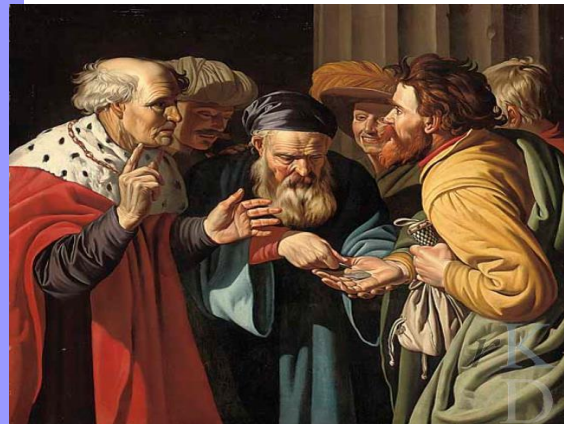
**Jesus is challenged by religious leaders on His authority and confounds them with His answers**

## Day 2: Holy Monday



**Jesus clears the Temple of corruption.**

## Day 4: Spy Wednesday



**Leaders get Judas to take 30 pieces of silver to betray Jesus**

## Day 5: Maundy Thursday



**Jesus washes His Disciples' feet and installs Holy Communion at the Last Supper.**

## Day 6: Good Friday



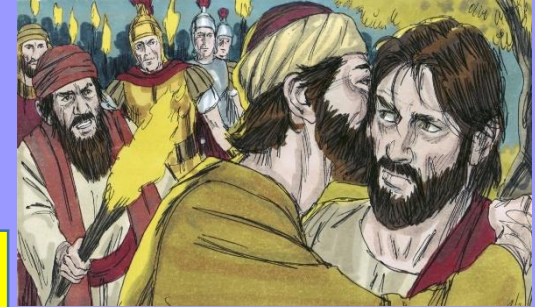
**Jesus is crucified and dies**

## Day 7: Black Saturday



**Jesus is buried in the tomb**

## Day 5: Maundy Thursday



**Judas betrays Jesus with a kiss in the Garden of Gethsemane**

## Day 8: Resurrection Day



**Jesus Rises To Life and conquers death. Alleluia!**





# LET US PRAY TO BE MORE WILLING TO MAKE SACRIFICES FOR THE GREATER GOOD

## Jubilee Prayer of Hope



God, our loving Father, in this Jubilee Year,  
You remind us of our call to love creation.  
Help us to work together to replant, repair, and  
renew

**R:** Guide us on our journey as pilgrims of hope.

Jesus, our light, in this Jubilee Year, you remind us  
of our call to love our neighbours and to set free  
those who suffer.

Help us to treat everyone with dignity; to be fair,  
forgiving and kind.

**R:** Guide us on our journey as pilgrims of hope.

Holy Spirit, our inspiration, in this Jubilee Year,  
You remind us of our call to grow in faith and love.  
Help us to hear you in scripture, to see Jesus in  
others,

And to be united as God's global family.

**R:** Guide us on our journey as pilgrims of hope.  
Amen.



# A Very Important **Pilgrim** Will Be Visiting Our School's Parish Community This Easter



It has been confirmed by Fr. Arnaud that ....

**HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL PATRICK D'RIZARIO WHO WAS APPOINTED BY POPE FRANCIS IN 2016 AS THE FIRST CARDINAL OF BANGLADESHI HERITAGE... WILL BE VISITING ST ANTONY'S PARISH CHURCH COMMUNITY THIS EASTER.**

Cardinals are second in command to Popes and are responsible for the election of Popes. Our very own Bishop Alan, Fr. Arnaud and the Brothers of St John at St Antony of Padua Catholic Parish will be hosting the Cardinal this Easter in the parish. The Cardinal will arrive in the parish on 19<sup>th</sup> April and will be celebrating Holy Saturday's Easter Vigil Paschal Mass with the entire faith community at 8 pm. He will also be celebrating a special Easter Sunday Mass with the Bangladeshi Catholic Community in London, in our School hall @ 12 noon on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2025. We continue to pray for the Bangladeshi Christian Community who have suffered persecution for decades because of their Christian faith.