

Passion Sunday

24th March 2024



He humbled himself, but God raised him high.
Philippians 2



This Sunday is Passion Sunday, a time when we think about Jesus being welcomed into Jerusalem.

Passion Sunday's Mass starts with a crowded procession to mirror Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem before hearing the story of his Passion. Often, churches will have palm processions on arrival to mass. The whole of the passion story is read at mass.

Many in that crowd were caught up in the moment welcoming Jesus and this is echoed by their rejection of him at the end of the week. It can be easy to be carried along by others in many aspects of our lives but this past year has provided all of us with time to be individuals and explore our relationships with ourselves, our families and friends and Jesus.

In a Urbi et Orbi address, Pope Francis said, *"Embracing his cross means finding the courage to embrace all the hardships of the present time, abandoning for a moment our eagerness for power and possessions in order to make room for the creativity that only the Spirit is capable of inspiring. It means finding the courage to create spaces where everyone can recognize that they are called, and to allow new forms of hospitality, fraternity and solidarity. By his cross we have been saved in order to embrace hope and let it strengthen and sustain all measures and all possible avenues for helping us protect ourselves and others. Embracing the Lord in order to embrace hope: that is the strength of faith, which frees us from fear and gives us hope."*

This Holy Week, let us take an opportunity to do just that: embrace that hope and, in so doing, welcome Jesus anew into our lives.

Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

This week let us pray for:

- ◆ strength and support for all those facing difficulties;
- ◆ all those who are isolating or feeling isolated;
- ◆ all the Lenten intentions and promises throughout our community;
- ◆ all those connected to our community who are unwell, upset or mourning.



"Glorify God during the ups and fully trust in Him during the downs."

Anon

God of goodness and mercy,

Support us and guide us. Look after our loved ones and all members of society who are finding times difficult or upsetting.

Let us work together to support one another with friendship and love.

Amen.

God of goodness and mercy,

Let me be honest with myself as I look into my heart and soul, noticing the times I turn away from You. Guide me as I humbly seek to repent and return to your love.

Transform me this Lent, heavenly Father. Give me the strength to commit myself to grow closer to You each day.

Amen.