



Today is Palm Sunday which marks the beginning of Holy Week and the day when we read the Gospel story of the passion of Jesus

Christ, Our Saviour. This year, it is the turn of St Luke's Gospel and I would in particular like to focus on three people who are mentioned in the gospel today. In each case, they are not perhaps the most obvious people or the ones who were especially prominent but they showed great insightfulness and consideration in a very difficult and challenging situation.

Joseph of Arimathea

"Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action." The figure of Joseph of Arimathea is mentioned in all four gospels. He was an important member of the Jewish community and Mark tells us that he was a member of the Council. It could be said that he was important enough for Pilate to take him seriously. John 19:38 confirms this by telling us that: *"Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission, so he came and removed his body."* We can conclude that Joseph was able to use his position and influence to ensure that Jesus had a proper burial. St John explains the rest of the story: *"Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They [Joseph and Nicodemus] took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid."*

Simon of Cyrene

"As they were leading him away they seized on a man, Simon from Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and made him shoulder the cross and carry it behind Jesus."

We often help other people to carry the burdens of life even when we don't fully realise what we are doing. It can be a kind word of support or a practical gesture that can make a real difference in the lives of others. We can never fully know the burdens that other people are carrying and sometimes its enough just to be there to listen and to support them.

The Women

"The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments."

The women in the gospel play an important part in Holy Week and stayed around when all the other disciples fled in fear apart from St John. In 2016, Pope Francis elevated the celebration of Saint Mary Magdalene (presumed from

other gospel accounts to be one of the women) to a full feast day similar to that of the twelve apostles. The Vatican said at the time: *"Saint John Paul II paid great attention to the particular role of Saint Mary Magdalene as the first witness who saw the risen Christ, and as the first messenger who announced the Lord's resurrection to the Apostles."* The women observed carefully what was happening and prepared for the next part of the burial Jewish burial customs. Mary Magdalene, in particular, could not have known at this point that her actions would lead her to being the first witness of the resurrection in the following days. As we reflect on St Luke's Gospel during Holy Week let us remember the important role played by the people I have mentioned. And to recall that its not always the most important or high ranking amongst us who have significant roles to play but often its the more quiet, reflective people who can act decisively and get things done effectively in difficult times.

Deacon Gerard



POPE FRANCIS

made his first public appearance since leaving hospital two weeks ago, in St. Peter's Square at the

close of a Mass for the Jubilee of the Sick and Healthcare Workers.

WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS

Recently Deceased

Thomas Gerard Bryce, Carrickhill

Evan Doyle, Suncroft Avenue

Íde O Hainle, Wheatfield Grove

Saturday 12th April

Cathal Cryan,[1st A]; Maurice Buckley,[A];

Sr. Teresa Buckley,[A]; Elizabeth & James Daly,[A];

Sean & Mary O'Leary,[A], Peter Canning,[A]

Sunday, 13th April

10.30am

Brenda Kenny,[RD]; Alban O'Hara,[1st A];

Ned & Letitia Fitzpatrick, [A];

12 noon

Pat Canning, [Month's Mind]; Brenda Kenny, [RD];

Larry Smith,[Bth Rem]; Patrick Penrose,[A];

Mary, Tommy & Johnny Regan,[A];

John Madden,[A]; Tom Murray,[A];

Brendan Savage,[5th A]; Pat Niland,[7th A].

COLLECTIONS

Sunday, 6 April 2025

Common Fund € 1420

Share € 1055

Sincere thanks for your support.



HOLY WEEK & EASTER TIMETABLE

PALM SUNDAY: 6.30pm
(Saturday Vigil) with
Blessing of Palms

10.30am & 12.00 noon Masses - with Blessing of Palms

PARTNERSHIP PENITENTIAL SERVICE WITH INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION at 7.30pm on Monday, 14th April, Sacred Heart Church, Yellow Walls

MONDAY, TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY:
10.00am Mass followed by Confession

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK traditionally known as 'Spy Wednesday' - a special **DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE** will be held in the Parish for the **second time**. Continuous prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament from after Mass to 10pm. Rosary on the hour. Benediction 9.30pm. Led by the Eucharistic Adoration Group. There will be an opportunity to light a candle for peace will be available for each person.

HOLY THURSDAY:
10.00am Morning Prayer
8.00pm: Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

GOOD FRIDAY:
12.00noon: Family Celebration of the Stations of the Cross
3.00pm: Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

HOLY SATURDAY:
9.00pm: Solemn Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY: 10.30am & 12.00 noon:
Masses and Blessing with the Easter Water

MASS OF EASTER MONDAY for the Partnership of our Parishes will be at **11.00am** in St. Anne's Church, Portmarnock.

NO TUESDAY MORNING IN ST. ANNE'S, PORTMARNOCK UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.
Mass Sacred Heart, Yellow Walls at 9.30am, St Sylvester's, Malahide at 10am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Adoration currently takes place in St Anne's Church, after 10.00a.m. Mass every Wednesday until 1.00pm and in the Jubilee Adoration Chapel : 10.30am. – 4.00pm, Monday to Friday (excl. Wed am) 7.00a.m. – 8.00am on Tuesday, and 7.00pm – 9.00pm Monday and Thursday.



THE LEGION OF MARY

are looking for recruits. If you could spare a couple of hours a week to visit a Retirement Home, visit lonely people living on their own or would like to attend Religious seminars or discussions and build your Spirituality, you would be very welcome to join us. Ideally, you could come along to our meetings on Thursday at 11am in the Parish Centre, and check out if it suits you. We appreciate people are reluctant to commit to regular events and meetings, with childminding and caring duties but you can help out whenever suits your schedule. There will be Legion Members at the exit if you would like to chat about volunteering.

Divine Mercy Sunday Celebrations



Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated in St. Sylvester's Malahide on **Sunday, April 27th** commencing at 2.45pm and concluding with Mass at 4.00pm

COLLECTION PRO TERRA SANCTA

Following a request from the Holy See, Archbishop Farrell has this year again asked that we take up a collection on Good Friday for the Holy Land, *Pro Terra Sancta*. This collection takes place in dioceses throughout the world. We are invited to pray and to collect funds for the Catholic community in the Holy Land and for the maintenance of the Holy Places there.



The Easter mailing went out this week to the homes of the Parish. For anybody who didn't receive it at home envelopes are also available in the church. Easter Dues which form part of the Common Fund monthly stipend to the Clergy of the Archdiocese will be most welcomed over the coming weeks. A very Happy and Blessed Easter to you all.