



# St. Thomas

THE **Apostle**

CATHOLIC CHURCH



**PALM SUNDAY OF THE**  
**PASSION OF THE LORD, YEAR A**  
**29 March 2026**

**Holy Week & Easter Services**

**Holy Thursday** 2 Apr – 7.00pm

**Good Friday** 3 Apr – 10am Stations, 3pm Passion

**Holy Saturday** 4 Apr – 6.30pm Vigil Mass

**Easter Sunday** 5 Apr – 7.30am & 9.30am

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**Secretary**

Jackie de Jong

Tues & Thurs 9am-3pm

Dcn Paul Reid

Weds & Fri 10am-3pm

**Masses and Devotions**

Sunday	7.30am	Mass
	9.30am	Mass
Tuesday	12.30pm	Mass
Wednesday	12.00pm	Rosary
	12.30pm	Mass (lunch in meeting room)
Thursday	12.30pm	Mass
Friday	11.30am	Eucharistic Adoration
	12.30pm	Mass
Saturday	5.00pm	Reconciliation
	5.30pm	Vigil Mass

*Pope Leo XIV March Prayer Intention*  
**For disarmament and peace**

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

# PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD, YEAR A

## Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem

(Matthew 21:1-11)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

When they drew near to Jerusalem  
and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives,  
Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them,  
'Go into the village opposite you,  
and immediately you will find an ass tied,  
and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me.  
If anyone says anything to you, you shall say,  
"The Lord has need of them,"  
and he will send them immediately'.

This took place to fulfil  
what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

'Tell the daughter of Zion,  
Behold, your king is coming to you,  
humble and mounted on an ass,  
and on a colt, the foal of an ass'.

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them;  
they brought the ass and the colt,  
and put their garments on them, and he sat thereon.  
Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road,  
and others cut branches from the trees  
and spread them on the road.

And the crowds that went before him  
and that followed him shouted,  
'Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!'

And when he entered Jerusalem  
all the city was stirred, saying, 'Who is this?'  
And the crowds said,

"This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee."

*The Gospel of the Lord*

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

### **Entrance Antiphon** (Cf John 12:1,12-13, Ps 23:9-10)

*Six days before the Passover,*

*when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem,*

*the children ran to meet him;*

*in their hands they carried palm branches*

*and with a loud voice cried out:*

*Hosanna in the highest!*

*Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!*

*O gates, lift high your heads;*

*grow higher, ancient doors.*

*Let him enter, the king of glory!*

*Who is this king of glory?*

*He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.*

*\* Hosanna in the highest!*

*Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!*

### **First Reading** (Isaiah 50:4-7)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.*

The Lord has given me

a disciple's tongue.

So that I may know how to reply to the wearied

he provides me with speech.

Each morning he wakes me to hear,

to listen like a disciple.

The Lord has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance,

neither did I turn away.

I offered my back to those who struck me,

my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;

I did not cover my face  
against insult and spittle.  
The Lord comes to my help,  
so that I am untouched by the insults.  
So, too, I set my face like flint;  
I know I shall not be shamed.

*The word of the Lord*

*Thanks be to God.*

### **Responsorial Psalm** (Psalm 22)

**(R.)** *My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?*

1. All who see me deride me.  
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.  
‘He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;  
let him release him if this is his friend.’ **(R.)**
2. Many dogs have surrounded me,  
a band of the wicked beset me.  
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.  
I can count every one of my bones. **(R.)**
3. They divide my clothing among them.  
They cast lots for my robe.  
O Lord, do not leave me alone,  
my strength, make haste to help me! **(R.)**
4. I will tell of your name to my brethren  
and praise you where they are assembled.  
‘You who fear the Lord give him praise;  
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.  
Revere him, Israel’s sons.’ **(R.)**

### **Second Reading** (Philippians 2:6-11)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.*

His state was divine,  
yet Christ Jesus did not cling  
to his equality with God  
but emptied himself

to assume the condition of a slave,  
and became as men are,  
and being as all men are,  
he was humbler yet,  
even to accepting death,  
death on a cross.  
But God raised him high  
and gave him the name  
which is above all other names  
so that all beings  
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,  
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus  
and that every tongue should acclaim  
Jesus Christ as Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

*The word of the Lord*

*Thanks be to God*

### **Gospel Acclamation** (Philippians 2:8-9)

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*

*Christ became obedient for us even to death  
dying on the cross.*

*Therefore God raised him on high  
and gave him a name above all other names.*

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!*

### **Gospel** (Matthew 27:11-54)

*\*the longer form (Matthew 26:14-27:66) will be said during Mass\**

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew  
Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate, the governor, and the governor put to  
him this question, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' Jesus replied, 'It is you who  
say it.' But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused  
to answer at all. Pilate then said to him, 'Do you not hear how many charges  
they have brought against you?' But to the governor's complete amazement, he  
offered no reply to any of the charges.

At festival time it was the governor's practice to release a prisoner for the

people, anyone they chose. Now there was at that time a notorious prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?' For Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. Now as he was seated in the chair of judgement, his wife sent him a message, 'Have nothing to do with that man; I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him.'

The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' they said 'Barabbas'. 'But in that case,' Pilate said to them 'what am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?' They all said, 'Let him be crucified!' 'Why?' he asked 'What harm has he done?' But they shouted all the louder, 'Let him be crucified!' Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said, 'I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your concern.' And the people, to a man, shouted back, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' Then he released Barabbas for them. He ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then handed over to be crucified.

The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort around him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him.

On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross. When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink mixed with gall, which he tasted but refused to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him.

Above his head was placed the charge against him; it read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said 'So you would

destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come down from the cross!' The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way. 'He saved others,' they said 'he cannot save himself. He is the king of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He put his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, "I am the son of God."' Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way.

From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you deserted me?' When some of those who stood there heard this, they said, 'The man is calling on Elijah,' and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink. 'Wait!' said the rest of them 'and see if Elijah will come to save him.' But Jesus again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

At that, the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people. Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said, 'In truth this was a son of God.'

### **Communion Antiphon** (Matthew 26:42)

*Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.*

## **NEWS & EVENTS**

### **PROJECT COMPASSION**

This Lent, we invite all parishioners to support Project Compassion, a wonderful initiative by Caritas Australia. Envelopes and donation boxes are available, please return at Easter, or use the QR code.



### **HOMEBOUND PARISHONERS**

To arrange to receive Holy Communion at home for yourself or your loved ones, please contact the parish office by phone or email.

### **CONFESSION BEFORE HOLY WEEK**

St Thomas will have reconciliation on **Saturday 28 March at 4.30pm-5pm**. Other nearby options include Holy Rosary, Nedlands on Thursday 19 March at 7pm, Star of the Sea, Cottesloe on Saturday 28 March at 12.30pm and St Cecilia, Floreat on Saturday 28 March at 8.30am.

### **PARISH SECRETARY UPDATE**

Deacon Paul has commenced part-time admin support on Wednesday and Fridays. Please join us in welcoming him to this role. Jackie will continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

### **VINNIES FOOD PANTRY**

Thank you for your generous pantry donations. Demand has doubled since taking on Palmyra's North Fremantle clients, leading to rapid turnover. We need simple, nutritious items like pasta, rice, cereals, canned food, long-life milk, and instant meals. No easter eggs needed as the girls from Iona have provided these.

### **ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM:**

**Our parish relies on your generosity.** You're invited to join the St Thomas' Planned Giving Programme through: • Weekly envelopes • Direct debit • Bank transfer (**First Collection:** BSB:086006 ACC:773078600, **Second Collection:** BSB:086006 ACC:458537432)

The first collection supports the priests of the diocese, including our parish priest. The second collection supports parish upkeep and operating costs.

Next weekend's readings **Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**  
Apostles 10:34,37-43, Psalm 117, Colossians 3:1-4, John 20:1-9