



ST MARY'S & ST PAUL'S NEWSLETTER

Sunday 24th March 2024 – Palm Sunday of the Passion of Our Lord
 March Monthly Devotion: St Joseph

THEME: See, your king is coming!

Amid great rejoicing Jesus enters the holy city of Jerusalem, riding on a donkey. Ahead of him is betrayal, torture, and death; but we still join our cheers with the crowds waving their palms, because we know that the route to the cross is the route to our redemption. Jesus is indeed our King.

Date	Celebration	Service Time & Location	Intention
Sunday 24 th Mar	Palm Sunday	Vigil Mass Sat 6:00pm St Paul's Mass 9:30am St Mary's Mass 11:00am St Mary's	Parishioners' Intention Brian Plank (Quick Recovery) Parishioners' Intention
Mon 25 th Mar	Monday of Holy Week	6:15pm St Mary's Eucharistic Adoration; Mass at 7:00pm	Father Oliver's intention
Tues 26 th Mar	Tuesday of Holy Week	8:30am St Mary's Eucharistic Adoration; Mass at 9:00am	Refugees
Weds 27 th Mar	Wednesday of Holy Week	8:30am St Mary's Eucharistic Adoration; Mass at 9:00am	Sick and House bounds
Thurs 28 th Mar	Maundy Thursday	7:30pm St Mary's Mass of the Last Supper followed by watching until 10pm	Deeper understanding of the Holy Eucharist
Friday 29 th Mar	Good Friday	10:00am St Paul's, Stations of the Cross 3:00pm St Mary's, The Celebration of Our Lord's Passion	General forgiveness of sins
Sat. 30 th Mar	Holy Saturday	7:30pm St Paul's, the Easter Vigil	Elizabeth Heffron (RIP)
Sunday 31 st Mar	Easter Sunday	Mass 9:30am St Mary's Mass 11:00am St Mary's	Parishioners' Intention Parishioners' Intention

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 9am to 9:50am St Mary's; 5pm to 5:50pm St Paul's; Sunday 8:30am to 9:20am or by appointment. **Sacraments and other liturgies:** Speak to the Priest following the weekend masses.

Date	Event	Location
Tues 25 th Mar 7pm	Holy Week Liturgical Practices for various parish groups	St. Mary's Church
Tues 2 nd Ap. 6.30pm	First Holy Communion Catechesis	St. Mary's meeting room

RECENTLY BAPTISED: Robin Cope, Ava-Rose Cope, Thomas Antony Gleeson were welcomed into the family of God recently. Please pray for them and their families.

MARK 14:1-15, 47: Through his own personal suffering and humiliation, the obedient servant in Isaiah's prophecy is able to teach others about the uncompromising love of God. In Jesus this song takes on a new and astounding reality, for here is the Son of God, with whom God is 'well pleased', undergoing insults, slander, torture, death, and, perhaps most hurtful of all, desertion by every one of his followers and even a sense of isolation from his Father. However, can such a bleak and distressing drama be cherished generation after generation? Why did God not answer Jesus' desperate prayer that the horror might be averted? When Jesus returned to find his disciples sleeping, perhaps his words applied also to himself: 'The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.' For here is the essence of what it meant to save us from the prison of sin; God had to empty himself of all rights, privilege and status and become utterly weak and vulnerable; he had to submit to the very worst that evil could throw at him and still continue to love, forgive, and trust. Had his flesh not been

weak he would not have been able to achieve this ultimate in loving obedience. Yet even at his most helpless, most cruelly treated and most terribly alone, Christ still loved the world which rejected him, and it is the incredible wonder of such love that draws us stumbling to his feet.

HOLY WEEK: Today we enter into Holy Week, the most significant week leading up to Easter Sunday, and the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus. **Palm Sunday** marks Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem when people welcomed Him by laying down palm branches on the road as He rode into the city on a donkey. Tradition holds that the cross-shaped mark on a donkey's back is a result of the donkey that carried Jesus on that day. Palm Sunday sets the stage for the profound events of Holy Week—the journey from Christ's triumphant entry to His ultimate sacrifice and glorious Resurrection. **Maundy Thursday**, also known as Holy Thursday, solemnly commemorates the institution of the Eucharist during the Last Supper. It's the oldest observance specific to Holy Week. On this day, Jesus shared bread and wine with His disciples, establishing the sacrament of the Eucharist. One of the most iconic rituals on Maundy Thursday is the washing of feet symbolising humility, service, and Jesus' command to love one another. Maundy Thursday invites us to reflect on Christ's selfless love, His sacrifice, and His commandment to serve one another. **Good Friday** is a solemn and significant day in the Christian calendar. The term "Good Friday" has an interesting origin. Some believe it comes from "God's Friday" (Gottes Freitag), while others argue it stems from the German "Gute Freitag," meaning "holy." Whatever the origin of the name, it is the day of Christ's crucifixion and our redemption from sin through his voluntary sacrifice. On Good Friday, the Church **Meditates** on Christ's passion and death; Adores **the cross** as a symbol of salvation; **Commemorates** its origin from Christ's side on the cross. Mass is not celebrated on Good Friday, but a liturgy is performed and, since 1955, laypeople have also received Holy Communion. Good Friday invites us to contemplate Christ's immense sacrifice and His victory over sin and death. Remember, Holy Week invites us to reflect on Jesus' suffering, sacrifice, and ultimate triumph over death. It's a time of deep prayer and spiritual contemplation. **Holy Saturday** is a day of quiet reflection and waiting and is a day to meditate on the suffering and death of Jesus. Jesus descends into hell, to free the just who have gone before him. We do not celebrate Mass on Holy Saturday until the Easter Vigil, which is celebrated after sundown, and the day is often marked by prayer and fasting in preparation for the joy of the Resurrection. The Easter Vigil is the principal liturgy of the entire liturgical year, and we will be joined by our catechumens who will be initiated into the Catholic Church, as the celebration of Resurrection begins.



HEALTH AND SAFETY: We have been undertaking a couple of tasks at both churches over the last few weeks, including completing the Pat Testing for electrical devices and inspecting and updating the fire extinguishers. Work is due to start shortly on removing the fir trees at St Paul's Church, which have a potential danger due to storm damage.

FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION: This year the Feast of the Annunciation is moved to April 8th, as it cannot be celebrated during Holy Week.

MONEY MATTERS: The Offertory Envelopes for the new financial year are at the back of both. If you don't have envelopes currently or if you can't find a box with your name on, please write your details on the form and a box will be available next weekend. The parish outgoings are currently a lot more than the income. Please consider if you can increase your offering, even by a small amount. As they say 'every little helps'.

LENTEN ALMS: During Holy Week, please remember to bring your Lenten Alms to put in the box at either church. These will be given to the SVP to support the poor of our Parish.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION: £400.27 Thank you for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTION: Easter Flowers



Scan the QR code to access the Online giving page for St Mary and St Paul, Dukinfield and Hyde

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Please consider remembering the parish in your will.

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