



PARISH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE Gather to Worship, Sent to Serve

St Paul's Glenrothes, St Mary's Leslie, & Chapel Royal Falkland
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24 MARCH 2024 PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Mission Statement: The parish of St. Mary Magdalene is a Catholic community of Christian faith with three churches – Saint Paul's in Glenrothes, Saint Mary's in Leslie and the Chapel Royal in Falkland. We are centred on the Word of God and the Eucharist.

Our mission is to live the Gospel and share it with those we meet. We are a welcoming and inclusive community of prayerful disciples, using our gifts for the glory of God and in service to one another and our neighbours. We are committed to do this now and in the future through:

- Worship and prayer
- Service to others
- Continuous faith formation, striving to engage all parishioners
- Stewardship, seeking to build a better world - our common home- for future generations
- Building our faith community

The procession we commemorate at the beginning of today's Mass is awash in contradictions. The man who is honoured in this passage is crucified in the lengthy passage we hear later. The crowds who now shout, "Hosanna!" go on to shout, "Crucify him!" later. The man entering as a conquering victor, riding on a colt and showered with palm branches achieves his true victory only when hung on a cross crowned with thorns. Our faith teaches us that it is in our greatest vulnerabilities and our greatest sufferings that we truly triumph, for it is in those times that the full measure of God's grace raises us.

Just a few months ago we celebrated the night that Jesus was born, God's Son becoming part of humanity. Today we hear a horrible account of the inhumanity of nearly everyone around our Lord. One of his closest friends betrays him, another denies him, the rest abandon him, the crowd turns on him, the soldiers torture him, the authorities condemn him, Pilate sentences him. In Mark's Gospel, even both of those crucified with him

abuse him. Greed, fear, cowardice, hatred, and cruelty win out over all the virtues Jesus embodied. Jesus was not able to rid the earth of inhumanity. But he gave us a model of how to oppose it, endure it, and conquer it. For in remaining faithful and obedient to the will of the Father, the One revealed today to truly be the Son of God showed humanity the way to truly be human.

Holy Week is the most sacred time of the Christian Year and we have hopefully made space in our diaries to attend many of our services. In particular, the Mass on Holy Thursday evening, the solemn liturgy of Good Friday at 3 p.m., and the Easter Vigil are designed as one liturgy (albeit at different times) and there is the expectation that we try to attend all three.

On **Holy Thursday** we recall the meal Jesus took with his disciples the night before he died, we reflect on the example of service he gave by washing his disciples' feet and respond to his invitation to wash each other's feet (so come prepared to have your feet washed and do the same for another!). The Mass ends with a procession and then adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, recalling the journey to and prayer of Jesus in Gethsemane.

On **Good Friday** we reflect on the mystery of Jesus' suffering and death as proclaimed in the Scriptures, pray at length for the needs of the Church and the world, then venerate a cross, and finally can receive holy communion from the hosts consecrated the preceding evening.

On **Holy Saturday** there are no services apart from the Divine Office until we meet for the great Vigil, beginning in darkness lighting the Easter Candle from a fire. In the light of this candle we read passages from the Old Testament which point towards the mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection and then from the New Testament read about the mystery of baptism and the discovery of the empty tomb. We bless baptismal water, renew our baptismal promises and welcome new members into the full communion of the Church. And

then we celebrate the Eucharist at which the newly received make their first communion.

Sunday 24 March – *Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord.*

Vigil Mass on Saturday at 6 p.m. in St Mary's

9 a.m. Mass in Chapel Royal (People of the Parish)

10.40 a.m. Rosary at St. Paul's

11.30 a.m. Mass in St. Paul's

Ecumenical Service for Palm Sunday in Markinch parish Church at 7 p.m.

Readings: Jn 12:12-16; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1-15:47

Monday 25 March

10 a.m. Mass in St Paul's

Stations of the Cross after Mass

Readings: Is 42:1-7; Jn 12:1-11

Tuesday 26 March

10 a.m. Mass in St Mary's

Chrism Mass at 7 p.m. in St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh

Readings: Is 49:1-6; Jn 13.21-33,36-38

Wednesday 27 March

Divine Mercy Devotions at 9.30 a.m.

10 a.m. Mass in St Paul's

Confessions after Mass until 11am & from 6 to 6.30p.m.

Ecumenical Stations of the Cross at St Luke's at 7 p.m.

Readings: Is 50:4-9; Mt 26:14-25

Thursday 28 March – *Thursday of the Lord's Supper*

7 p.m. Easter Triduum Mass of the Lord's Supper in St Paul's

Adoration until Night Prayer at 11 p.m.

Readings: Ex 12:1-8,11-14; 1Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15

Friday 29 March – *Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Day of Fast and Abstinence)*

9 a.m. Morning Prayer in Falkland Church of Scotland followed by pilgrimage walk

10.30 a.m. Walk of Witness beginning at Trinity Church, Christ Church, St Margaret's and St Ninian's culminating with a service in St Columba's about 11.30 a.m.

3 p.m. Good Friday Solemn Liturgy in St Paul's.

7 p.m. Evening Service in St Mary's

Readings: Is 52:13 – 53:12; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1-19:42

Saturday 30 March – *Holy Saturday at the tomb of Christ*

10 a.m. Morning Prayer in St Mary's

Sunday 31 March – *Easter Sunday*

Vigil Mass on Saturday at 7.30 p.m. in St Mary's (People of the Parish)

Readings: Gen 1:1-2:2; Ex 14:15-15:1; Eze 36:16-28; Rom 6:3-11; Mk 16:1-7

9 a.m. Mass in Chapel Royal (Canon Roddy Johnston RIP)

10.40 a.m. Rosary at St. Paul's

11.30 a.m. Mass in St. Paul's

Readings: Acts 10:34.37-43; 1Cor 5;6-8; Mk 16:1-7

Children's Liturgy There will be a team meeting after 11.30 a.m. Mass this Sunday.

Across Group is running a Thrift Shop from Saturday 20 April to Friday 26 April between 10 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. in Wellesley Road, Buckhaven.

Big Church Clean for Easter We need volunteers to help clean our churches ahead of Easter. St Paul's will be done after Mass on Monday and St Mary's after Mass on Tuesday. If you are able to help on a different day or at a different time, please contact the parish office.

Gift Aid / 200 Club Envelopes 2024/25 are now available to collect from the back of the Churches.

The Scottish Government is consulting on a proposed new law to end conversion practices. The proposals have drawn sharp and widespread criticism, described by Aidan O'Neill KC as "ill-thought out" and "fundamentally illiberal". Please respond to the consultation before the closing date of April 2. You will find guidance on responding to the consultation, here: <https://rcpolitics.org/conversion-practices/>

Assisted Suicide Please sign the online petition at www.carenotkilling.scot

Sick List We pray for the sick in our parish community and family and friends who are ill. **Please contact the office on 01592 756758 if you would like someone's name added or removed.**

Last Sunday's Collection £564.05 **Building Fund** £230.10