



The Parish of Christ the King Southport

PART OF THE OLD CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE UNITED KINGDOM & AMERICA



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Dear All,



Christians from around the world observe Lent in many different ways. Orthodox and traditional

denominations will still observe the fast strictly, beginning with the wearing of ashes on Ash Wednesday and abstinence of meat, fish, eggs and fats until Easter Sunday.

Others will choose to give up just one item for Lent, more commonly a 'luxury' such as chocolate, meat or alcohol.

Many Christians also use Lent to study their Bibles and pray more intensively, making use of the many devotional books and courses now available.

Sundays during Lent are very important to Christians around the world. Where the Monday to Saturday of each of the six weeks are concerned with fasting and abstinence, the Sunday is a celebration symbolic of Christ's resurrection. Instead of fasting, Christians hold feasts in remembrance of Christ's sacrifice. The fourth and sixth Sundays are particularly important in the United Kingdom – the fourth because it is Mothering Sunday and the sixth because it's Palm Sunday.

++Geoffrey



HOME COMMUNION & ANOINTING OF THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND

Please contact Bishop Geoffrey if you need a local home visits.

CHRIST THE KING SOUTHPORT

MARCH - Sung Eucharist with anointing of the Sick takes place this month on Easter Day – **Sunday 31st March @ 11.00am**

APRIL – Sung Eucharist with anointing of the Sick takes place this month on Easter Day - **Sunday 28th April @ 11.00am**

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

SICK: Paul Shaw | Sheila Hogarth | Ruth Barr | Lesley Fudge | Thelma Thompson | Clarice Shaw | Sally Hayes | Bishop Gerard & Pam Crane | Brian & Brigitte Duffett | Archbishop

Norman & Dorothy Dutton | Eileen Duffy | Harry Shaw | Lilian King | Luish Sao | Geoff Lamb | Bev & Barrie Chester | Shelley Coulter | Thelma Dunkley | Sylvia Holgate | James Hardman | Bishop Gerald Hitchen | Rev Ted Haywood | Matthew Shaw | Alex Wiseman | John Illingworth | Helen Lee | Margaret Glover | Harry Seymour | Ada Wilcock | Roy Grainger | Brian Keane OSR | Lawrence & Penny Bell-wright OSR | Bob Lee | Ritchie Old | Richard Scott OSR | Jackson Amick | Randle Cutts | Andrew Stenson & family | Helen Wilson OSR | Brian Lee (OSL) | Joyce Kelford | Margaret Gunnel | Bishop Alan & Bev Pearson | John Beesley | Pauline Bayley | Julie Wroot | Michelle Pope | Michael Rogers | Christine Smith | Carol (Caz) Arnold | The Park Family (Mary, Matthew, Charlotte & Edward) | Julie Corner | Barry & Diane Uttley OSR | Roy Weatherall | Norma Cropper | Kane Fishwick | Shannon Fishwick & Family | Paula Lester | Jonathan Merrifield | Elaine & Phillip Coope | Ciara (pronounced – 'KYRA') Duffy | Brian Everett OSR | Ray & Jean Wilde | Tracey Solley | Brad Anderson | Deacon Adrien Sulo | David Bainbridge | Ian Cameron OSR | Richard Scott OSR | Fr Thomas Reece | Joy Davies | John & Gwen Simons ||

RIP: Stanley Bower 10th Jan | Violet Atherton 4th Jan 24 | Margaret Dyson 11th Feb ||

CARTOON CORNER



THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Later this month, Bishop Geoffrey will be officiating at the Marriages of **Vickie & Joseph** (24th March) and on Holy Saturday 30th March for **Louise & Adam**.



Please remember these young people in your prayers for their new lives together as newly married couples.

GOOD FRIDAY IS A BIT OF A STRANGE NAME

The term "Good Friday" seems a bit strange at first glance given that it is the day we remember Jesus' crucifixion and burial. Scholars continue to debate the correct origin of the word good; some attribute it as meaning Holy, or Pious, while others argue that it comes from a corruption of 'God Friday'. The Oxford

English Dictionary opts for the first – but either definition hints at the significance of the day. Good Friday is certainly the holiest Friday of any given year.

LENT IS ALSO ABOUT DOING GOOD

Lent isn't just about remembering Christ's suffering – it's a time in which believers try to be the best Christian they can possibly be. In the early Lent traditions, Almsgiving (the giving of charity to the poor and needy) was another important aspect of the fast. So the principle of doing Lent generously has been around for hundreds of years before the 40 acts generosity challenge began! "If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honoured, all the parts share its joy" (1 Cor 12:26)

WHAT IS PALM SUNDAY?

Palm Sunday is a Christian celebration that marks the beginning of the Holy Week leading to Easter Sunday. It commemorates Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem when

people laid down palms and branches before him as a sign of honour. In modern times, churches hold Palm



Sunday services in which worshippers are given a palm branch or cross made from palm leaves. The celebration involves singing hymns, reading Scripture, and sometimes even a procession with the palms. Palm Sunday is a reminder of the selfless love Jesus showed by laying down his life for us, and it is a time to reflect on our own lives and how we can show that same love to those around us.

Palm Sunday is the day we remember and celebrate the day Jesus entered Jerusalem as Saviour and King. As Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem, a large crowd gathered and laid palm branches and their cloaks across the road, giving Jesus royal treatment. The hundreds of people shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Palm Sunday is a moveable holiday that changes yearly based on Lent and the spring equinox. Many churches celebrate Palm Sunday by waving palm branches, singing traditional hymns, and making crosses out of palm fronds. But while this is a triumphal entry, it is Jesus' first step toward His death.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE HOLY WEEK

Holy Week is the last week of Lent. In most churches, the decorations are red to symbolize the blood of martyrdom. Some churches remove all decorations on Good Friday, veiling anything that can't be removed in black or purple. Holy water is also removed from the stoups in churches on Good Friday and Holy Saturday in preparation for the blessing of

the water at the Easter Vigil. This removal also corresponds to those days on which the Eucharist is not celebrated.

The time from sundown on Holy Thursday to sundown on Easter Day is also known as the Triduum, which is Latin for "three days."

Holy Week observances began in Jerusalem in the earliest days of the Church, when devout people travelled to Jerusalem at Passover to re-enact the events of the week leading up to the Resurrection. Egeria was a Christian who travelled widely during the period of 381-385 and wrote about Christian customs and observances in Egypt, Palestine, and Asia Minor. She described how religious tourists to Jerusalem re-enacted the events of Holy Week. On Palm Sunday afternoon, the crowds waved palm fronds as they made a procession from the Mount of Olives into the city.

Of course, the observances must have begun quite a number of years before Egeria witnessed them, or they wouldn't have been so elaborate. It's just that Egeria's description is the earliest we still have. The tourists took the customs home with them. Holy week observances spread to Spain by the fifth century, to Gaul and England by the early seventh century. They didn't spread to Rome until the twelfth century.

The purpose of Holy Week is to re-enact, relive, and participate in the passion of Jesus Christ.

Holy Week is the same in the eastern and western Church, but because eastern Christians use the Julian Calendar to calculate Easter, the celebrations occur at different times. However, the following events in the week before Easter are the same, east and west, relative to the date of Easter:

- **Palm Sunday** (or Passion Sunday), the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem.
- **Holy Thursday** (or Maundy Thursday), the institution of Communion and the betrayal by Judas.
- **Good Friday**, the arrest, trial, crucifixion, death, and burial of Jesus Christ.
- **Holy Saturday**, the Sabbath on which Jesus rested in the grave.

**Greetings from the Parish of Christ the King
Southport to all our Readers**

