

April 2, 2023: Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

"Jesus is crucified, and his body is placed in the tomb."

Matthew 26:14-27:66

Beginning with the end we understand His greatness

One way to understand a book, or to watch a movie, is to begin at the end. To read, or watch, backwards allows every character and plot twist to be interpreted in light of their conclusions. Working backwards removes much of the drama and tension from a story, of course, but it also makes the story perfectly intelligible. No slow unwinding of the plot, no "whodunit," no surprise around the corner, and no unexpected deaths. Skipping to the end makes the entire narrative clear, with prior knowledge infusing prior meaning into the story as it unfolds.

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are essentially Passion narratives with extended introductions. There is plenty of evidence that the end of Christ's life, particularly his last seventy-two hours, were well remembered by His disciples, the events being repeated in great detail until they were ultimately written down. The Evangelists eventually supplemented these often-repeated Passion narratives with further details about Christ's life which had occurred long before Holy Week. These prior narratives are often inconsistent across the Gospels, emphasize diverse aspects of Christ's life, and omit or add details in a seemingly arbitrary manner. What is very consistent, however, are the Passion narratives. Their vivid details are, without doubt, the heart and soul of the story of Jesus Christ.

On Palm Sunday we begin with the end. We read our way backwards. It is not possible for any Christian to think of Jesus Christ divorced from how His earthly life ended. Even the earliest Christian writings were composed from a post-Resurrection perspective. The "real" Jesus of history did not have miracles placed on Him like ornaments on a Christmas tree. His miracles were not later adornments hung on His human frame to lend Him credibility. The "real" Jesus is not the simple carpenter lurking in the shadows behind the Christ of Faith created by later generations. There are scant biblical references to Jesus' occupation as a carpenter, or to His simple and humble existence in a provincial town. There is a massive amount of biblical evidence, on the contrary, that Jesus suffered, died, and rose from the dead. And this biblical evidence is buttressed by an abundance of postbiblical testimony and the universal witness of an army of Apostles, saints, and martyrs.

All of this means that the "real" Jesus is the Christ of faith! The "real" Jesus did suffer, die, and rise from the dead! The "real" Jesus is not found in the *subtext* of the Gospels—He is found in the *text* of the Gospels! And those texts are indisputably ancient. In other words, the narrative read at Mass on Palm Sunday is the oldest, truest, and most well-remembered portion of one of the most fully preserved and extraordinary documents from the ancient world—the New Testament.

Our faith is rooted in history, a miraculous history. The Passion of Jesus Christ is not a parable, analogy, or metaphor. It is not a story meant to teach us a lesson apart from its facts. It is not a morality play whose actors mean to teach a lesson. The Passion of Christ is theologically significant because it is historically true. If it were not historically true it would have no significance beyond its power to inspire as a story. But every culture already has myths to inspire its people, or at least mythical figures whose superhuman qualities model greatness. The story of Christ is so much more. It is the true story of a God-man who was betrayed by a friend, suffered calumny from His enemies, was publicly humiliated, made to carry the instrument of His own execution, and then was left to die, naked on a rough-hewn tree. This story is not sad by analogy to another story. It is sad in and of itself. This is the story we hear every Palm Sunday. This is how a great man's life came to an end. It is also the story of how the Son of God conquered death and opened the gates of heaven to all who not only believe in Him but who belong to Him through the Catholic Church.

Lord of the Passion, You suffered calumny and humiliation, You bore the Cross and did not complain. Intercede before Your heavenly Father that we may bear whatever crosses we must with fortitude. With Your grace, Lord, we can emulate You. Without Your grace, we are no better than Godless pagans, in search of frivolous signs to lend meaning to life.

mycatholic.life

April 2, 2023

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Sacred Heart Parish

A Stewardship Parish in Union with Christ



Parish Information

Office Administrator: **Chelo Escalona**

Office Hours: **Monday to Friday 9am-12pm**

465 Curling Street
Corner Brook, NL, A2H 3K8
Tel: (709) 785-5025
curlingparish@hotmail.com

e-transfers: sacredheartrcparish@gmail.com
Password "Church"
www.sacredheartrcparish.ca
Diocesan website: rcchurch.com

Weekend Masses: Saturday 4:30 pm, Sunday 11 am

Mass During Week: **Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7pm beginning April 12th**

Daily mass is cancelled any day schools are closed due to bad weather.

Bible Study: Bible study will resume on Sundays at 7pm.

Holy Hour of Adoration: Post-poned until further notice.

Reconciliation: By request.

Marriages: Six months' notice required. A year's notice is recommended.

Baptisms: Please call the Parish Office to schedule preparation session.

Family Connections: At www.rcchurch.com you will find a link to family connections.

St. Vincent de Paul: To assist those in need. Call 638-9010.

RECEIVED WITH THANKS
March 25th – March 26th, 2023

Regular Sunday	\$1,580.25
Parish Dues	50.00
Building Fund	95.00
Envelope Cost Contribution	5.00
Lenten Folders	270.00
Votive Candles	25.00
In Memorium	70.00
Development & Peace	355.00
Catholic Missions in Canada	5.00
Good Friday (Holy Lands)	5.00
St. Vincent de Paul	55.00
Solemnity of Mary	5.00
Indian Residential School Healing Fund	5.00
Easter Flowers	120.00

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. 7 pm	William Brake
Tue. 7 pm	Basil Donahue
Wed. 7 pm	Greg Joyce
Thu. 7 pm	Fr. Jim Robertson
Sun. 11 am	Parish Community

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

April 8 & 9
Kindly check the distributed Easter Schedule 2023
Communion to the sick – Barbara Neville

NEEDS OF THE CHURCH IN HOLY LAND:

Special collection for the Needs of the Church in the Holy Land on **April 7th**.

LENTEN FOLDERS: Due to a shortage of Lenten folders, we will be using ADVENT FOLDERS. Please use these in place of Lenten Folders.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: There will be a Parish Council Meeting on **Monday, April 3rd**.

COFFEE TIME: Our Parish Outreach Committee will continue coffee time after masses on Sunday mornings. Come join us for a cup of tea or coffee and maybe a little snack. This is the time to share with your brothers and sisters and also welcome new members.

PARISH OUTREACH: This committee, consisting of, Marie Pennell (709-388-5090), Gerard Deveaux (709-638-4411), Pat Moore (709-785-2440), and Tony Griffin (709-632-5755) are offering to bring communions and provide a pastoral visit to those who wish to have this ongoing contact. They are also exploring social activities for the parish as a whole. Please support them in their efforts. Please call them if you or a family member wish to avail of this service.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE - SACRED HEART & OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA PARISHES:

HOLY THURSDAY - Mass of the Lord's Last Supper April 6th, 2023

7:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish

GOOD FRIDAY - Celebration of the Lord's Passion April 7th, 2023

3:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish

5:00 p.m. at Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish

Stations of the Cross - Good Friday

7:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish

EASTER VIGIL: Saturday, April 8th, 2023

9:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish

EASTER SUNDAY - The Resurrection of the Lord

9:30 a.m. at Our Lady Star of the Sea

11:00 a.m. at Sacred Heart Parish

NEW MASS SCHEDULE: Beginning the week of April 10th weekday mass will only be held on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 7pm.

GOOD FRIDAY PRO LIFE ROSARY: The annual Pro Life Rosary is scheduled for 11:00 am on Good Friday at the chapel of Immaculate Heart of Mary School. All are welcome.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, APRIL 16th: Divine Mercy Hour and Benediction will be held at **All Hallows Church, 3:00, Sunday, April 16.**

CONCERT: There is a Variety Concert on **Sunday, April 16th** at the Sacred Heart School Auditorium. Admission is \$5.00. The ladies group need volunteers to make Cherry and /or Fruit cakes to be used to sell tickets on at the concert. Please contact Veronica @ 639 7216.

ORIENTATION WORKSHOP: Holy Redeemer Parish will be holding a Liturgy of the Word Orientation Workshop on **Wednesday, April 26th at 7:00 p.m.** at the lower level of the Cathedral.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP: Free 8 week in-person or online program is being offered on Tuesdays, beginning April 18th 10:00 am to noon at 110 Healthcare Crescent - Western Long-Term Care. Pre-registration is required by April 12. Call Sandra at 784-2700 Extension 2669. Grief and bereavement are a normal part of life but can also be a difficult journey to navigate. To learn more - visit <https://www.westernhealth.nl.ca/grief-andbereavement/>

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: Archbishop Howley Council 2581 will be meeting at All Hallows Parish Humber Road on Tuesday April 4th at 7:45 P.M. Could Brother Knights please try to attend.

ST. VINCENT THE PAUL: Mary's Kitchen schedule on Good Friday will be at 12:00 pm.

EASTER FLOWERS: If you wish to donate to Easter Flowers for the altar in memory of a loved one, you can put your donation in an envelope with the name of your loved one, please include your name as well and put it in the collection or drop by the Parish Office.

MARRIAGE COURSE - FOR 2023: will be held on Friday, April 22nd 7:00 pm and Saturday, April 23rd 9:30 am at the Cathedral lower level. If you wish to avail of this preparation for marriage, please call the Parish Office at 634-5161 to register. You are required to do this to get married in the Catholic Church. There is a fee of \$50.00.

BAPTISM PREPARATION: This preparation will take place on Monday, April 24th at 7:00 pm at the Cathedral. This is for parents and Godparents. We offer an update on what it means to have a child baptized together with the understanding that there will be a well-founded hope that the child will be raised in the practice of the faith. We offer a walk through of the liturgy with an opportunity for question and discussion. Call the office at 634-5161 to register.

In honour of the **CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III on May 6th**, St. John the Evangelist will hold a High Tea on **Sunday, April 23rd at 2:00 pm** in the Churchill Hall. By reservation only, as seats are limited. Please reserve your seat early by calling 634-6370, 634-1498 or 634-2366. Tickets are \$15.00 per person, and you can pay at the door.

HUMOUR: What do you call a priest in charge of the school play?
The spiritual director.