

# HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2018

## Palm Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> March

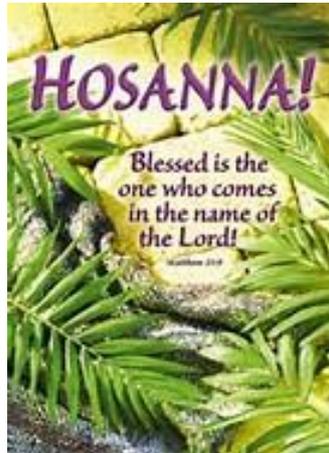
### Blessing of Palms, Procession & Mass

*Please bring a small branch to Mass for the Blessing of Branches and Palms*

**Sat 6.00pm**  
**St. Bernadette's**

**Sun 9.00am**  
**Mary Immaculate**

**Sun 10.30am**  
**Mother of God**



## Monday in Holy Week 26<sup>th</sup> March

9.15am Mass at St. Bernadette's

## Tuesday in Holy Week 27<sup>th</sup> March

9.15am Mass at Mother of God

11.00am Chrism Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral

## Wednesday in Holy Week 28<sup>th</sup> March

9.15am Mass at Mary Immaculate

6.00pm Ecumenical Meal at the Ivanhoe  
Uniting Church Community Centre

## Holy Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March

Mass of the  
Lord's Supper  
with Washing of the  
Feet & Procession of  
the Blessed Sacrament  
to the Altar of Repose



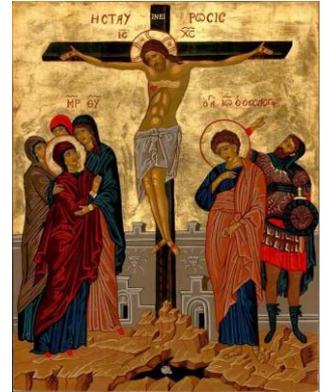
**7.30pm at**  
**Mary Immaculate**

*After Mass there will be a Watch of Prayer at the Altar of Repose till 10.00pm.*

## Good Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March

10.00am Stations of  
the Cross at Mary  
Immaculate

11.30am Ecumenical  
Walk of Witness from  
St. James Anglican  
Church to Mary  
Immaculate Church



3.00pm Liturgy of the Passion  
at Mother of God

## Holy Saturday Easter Vigil



31<sup>st</sup> March

7.30pm Easter Vigil  
& First Mass of Easter  
at St. Bernadette's

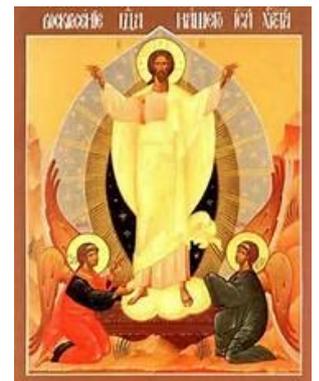
*The Easter Vigil is the Queen of Festivals, the most important celebration in the Christian Year.*

## Easter Day

1<sup>st</sup> April

9.00am Mass  
at  
Mary Immaculate

10.30am Mass  
at  
Mother of God



## THIS IS HOLY WEEK

The days of the Christian Year from Palm Sunday to Easter Day present us all with the greatest journey a Christian can undertake. We follow the Lord as He is welcomed in triumph and joy; to His death on the cross, and rejoice in the new life of His resurrection.

It is a journey for us of joy, suffering and excitement if we allow these days to penetrate deeply into our spiritual lives and set aside the time to share them with Jesus. To experience the fullness of the Holy Week pilgrimage we must participate fully in the sacred liturgy of these great days.

### PALM SUNDAY

This day, also known as Passion Sunday, begins Holy Week. Today's liturgy celebrates Christ's entry into Jerusalem in triumph. Please bring your own small branch to Mass. Branches and Palms are blessed outside the church and the whole community is invited to walk in procession into the church, recalling the way the people hailed Jesus as he entered Jerusalem. It also symbolizes our taking possession of the church for the sacred events that will be celebrated there during the coming week, in the same way Christ took possession of Jerusalem after His triumphal procession from the Mount of Olives to the Holy City.



### HOLY THURSDAY

On this day Christians gather together to celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper. During this Mass several solemn actions take place. The priest washes the feet of twelve members of the parish community in imitation of our Lord as a reminder to us all that we are under an obligation of love and service to others.

At the Offertory sufficient bread will be prepared, both for communion tonight and for

communion on Good Friday. After we receive Communion the Sacrament is carried in procession to the Altar of Repose, there to be



reserved until Communion on Good Friday. Children, especially those who are preparing for their First Holy Communion, are invited to join in the procession holding lighted candles. The Altar of Repose represents Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, in agony waiting for His arrest.

The main altar is then stripped, reminding us that our Lord was stripped before he suffered. Until 10.00pm a watch of prayer is kept before the Altar of Repose, just as the disciples watched and waited with Christ in the Garden. The faithful may come and go at any time until 10.00pm, to spend some time with our Lord in quiet prayer.

### GOOD FRIDAY

Today, in a church bare of all adornment, we come to celebrate our Lord's death and passion. Today, a day of deep sorrow, we do not celebrate the Mass. Instead, those who attend the 3.00pm Solemn Liturgy of the Day, receive the Body of Christ which was consecrated at the Mass of the Lord's Supper, and has rested upon the Altar of Repose since last night. During the sombre liturgy the



Passion according to St. John is read and the faithful venerate the cross.

After the liturgy all leave in silence.

The church remains bare, the only object of devotion is the Cross, whilst the tabernacle, where at all other times we can adore the sacramental presence of the Body of Christ, stands open and empty. Christ has died! Now we must await the mystery of the resurrection.

## HOLY SATURDAY

In the darkness of Holy Saturday night (Easter Eve) the Church celebrates the greatest of all Christian Feasts: the resurrection of our Lord. The liturgy of the Easter Vigil has three main parts:

1. **SERVICE OF LIGHT!** In total darkness the faithful gather outside the church, waiting for Jesus to burst from the tomb. A fire is lit and from it is lit the great Easter Candle, symbolising Christ the light of the world rising from the dead. The candle is carried through the church as the priest sings; 'The Light of Christ', and the faithful light their own candles from the Easter Candle. Each receives the risen light and life of Christ and as the candlelight floods the darkened church so Christ's light floods a darkened world.

2. **LITURGY OF THE WORD!** The readings tell us how God has saved his people throughout history, and sent his Son as our Redeemer.

3. **LITURGY OF BAPTISM!** In the early Church baptism was only celebrated at the Easter Vigil after intensive preparation during Lent. In baptism we die and rise to new life with Christ. This is why the Easter candle stands by the font after the Easter Season, to remind us of the connection between baptism and the death and resurrection of Christ. Together we renew our baptismal promises.



4. **LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST!** The Vigil now comes to its climax and the First Mass of Easter is celebrated.

## CHRIST IS RISEN EASTERTIDE HAS BEGUN

