



# PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

## Year A — 5<sup>th</sup> April 2020

*The community of the Cathedral of St. Stephen acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which our parish stands.*

*Embracing  
Villa Maria Centre  
and  
St Patrick's  
Fortitude Valley*



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*Archbishop of Brisbane*

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*There was darkness over  
all the land. And about the  
ninth hour, Jesus cried out  
in a loud voice:  
Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?  
That is: "My God, my God,  
why have you  
deserted me?"*

**Readings for today: Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66**

*Dear friends,*

The commemoration of Palm Sunday would normally announce the approaching intensity of the Easter Triduum, but this year Palm Sunday is lost in the blur of another form of intensity. Much of the daily rhythm of our lives have been scaled back and our world feels as though it is teetering on the brink of disaster in one way or another. If the virus doesn't come after us, economic chaos will. Probably both.

A world that seemed so predictable and resilient now seems uncertain and vulnerable. How appropriate, then, that we sense this reality on Palm Sunday because this is exactly what this moment is all about. Jesus' ministry had offered so much promise. He proclaimed a Kingdom of abundance and mercy, he filled people with hope and transformed their lives by casting aside that which burdened and limited them. In his company, people became free.

Just like the rhythms of the modern world, the ancient world too had its cycles of boom and bust. The promise of Jesus crumbles away under the weight of rejection and the Cross; that which began in hope ends in a loud cry followed by silence on Palm Sunday. As things crashed around them, the friends and companions of Jesus asked exactly the same questions we find ourselves asking this day: How did it all go so wrong, so quickly? Will anything ever be the same again?

The answer for those first disciples and for us is the same: No, things will never be the same again. The lasting impacts of our current social upheaval will take a generation or more to work through, and at this point, we cannot say exactly what all the consequences will be.

Palm Sunday ends with the securing of the tomb. We know that this is not a full stop and we also know that the disciples will never be the same again. In the light of the resurrection, their former lives fall away. Nothing is the same. Their lives become simple and complicated all in the same moment. For them, the only thing that matters is the Resurrected Christ but they will spend the rest of their lives struggling to working out what all this means: what it means for them; what it means for those who will come to believe; what it means for the whole world. The beautiful simplicity of this new ground of faith is matched by the baffling complexity of this new reality.

All these centuries later, we find ourselves standing at exactly the same point. In these days, we feel the force of the call to re-discover the simplicity of life and faith. We also know that the future will be complicated and we will spend the rest of our lives grappling with the on-going consequences of this moment. In our perplexity, we stand in good company. From the very first, Palm Sunday has always packs a punch. *Fr. Anthony*



*Cathedral of  
St. Stephen  
249 Elizabeth St  
Brisbane*



*St. Patrick's  
58 Morgan St  
Fortitude Valley*



*Villa Maria Chapel  
171 St Pauls Tce  
Spring Hill*

**Cathedral Parish Mass Times this week**

Monday to Wednesday 8.00am (live-streamed)  
Thursday 10.00am Chrism Mass

**St Patrick's** Suspended until further notice  
**Villa Maria** Suspended until further notice

**Easter Triduum Ceremonies** (live-streamed)

Thursday 9th April 2020 7.00pm – Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

Friday 10th April 2020 10.00am - Stations of the Cross  
3.00pm – Celebration of the Passion of the Lord

Saturday 11th April 2020 7.00pm – The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

Sunday 12th April 2020 8am & 10am – SUNDAY of the RESURRECTION of the LORD

## PLENARY COUNCIL PRAYER

*Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost.  
Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land.*

*O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia  
and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council.*

*Give us the grace to see your face in one another  
and to recognise Jesus, our companion on the road.*

*Give us the courage to tell our stories  
and to speak boldly of your truth.*

*Give us ears to listen humbly to each other  
and a discerning heart to hear what you are saying.*

*Lead your Church into a hope-filled future,  
that we may live the joy of the Gospel.*

*Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
bread for the journey from age to age.*

*Amen*

*Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.  
St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.*



## LENTEN PRAYER

*Fast from judging others;  
feast on the Christ indwelling in them.  
Fast from emphasis on differences;  
feast on the unity of all life.  
Fast from apparent darkness; feast on the reality of light.  
Fast from words that pollute; feast on phrases that purify.  
Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.  
Fast from anger; feast on patience.  
Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism.  
Fast from worry; feast on trust.  
Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.  
Fast from negatives; feast on affirmatives.  
Fast from unrelenting pressures;  
feast on unceasing prayer.  
Fast from hostility; feast on nonviolence.  
Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.  
Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion for others.  
Fast from personal anxiety; feast on eternal truth.  
Fast from discouragement; feast on hope.  
Fast from facts that depress; feast on truths that uplift.  
Fast from lethargy; feast on enthusiasm.  
Fast from suspicion; feast on truth.  
Fast from thoughts that weaken;  
feast on promises that inspire.  
Fast from idle gossip; feast on purposeful silence.  
Gentle God, during this season of fasting and feasting,  
gift us with your presence,  
so we can be a gift to others in carrying out your work.  
Amen.*

## PRAYER IN TIME OF PANDEMIC

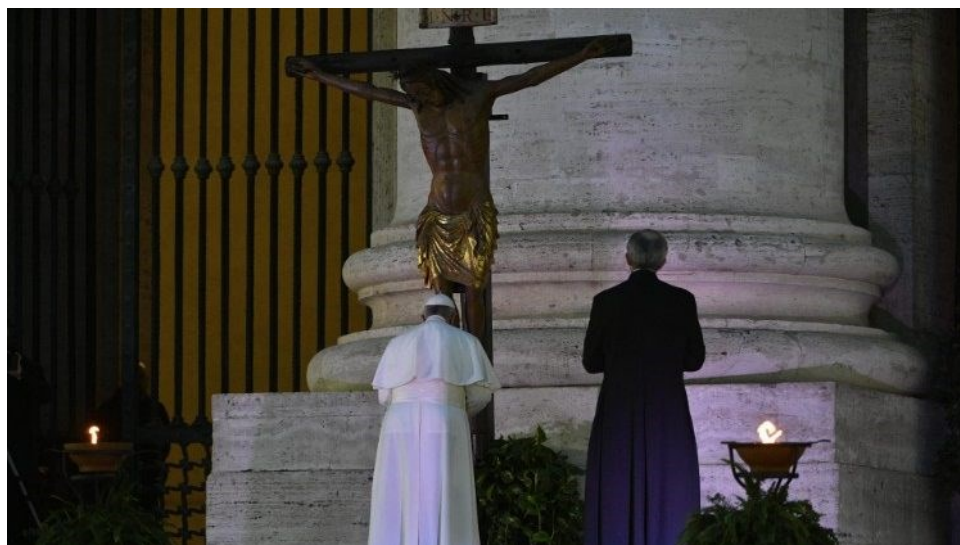
**Almighty and all-merciful God, lover of the human race, healer of all our wounds,  
in whom there is no shadow of death, save us in this time of crisis;  
grant wisdom and courage to our leaders;  
watch over all medical people as they tend the sick and work for a cure;  
stir in us a sense of solidarity beyond all isolation;  
if our doors are closed, let our hearts be open.  
By the power of your love destroy the virus of fear,  
that hope may never die and the light of Easter,  
the triumph of life, may shine upon us and the whole world.  
Through Jesus Christ, the Lord risen from the dead,  
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

***Holy Mary, health of the sick, pray for us.***

***St Joseph, guardian of us all, pray for us.***

# Pope's special Urbi et Orbi blessing: 'God turns everything to our good'



## Litany of Supplication

We adore you, O Lord  
True God and true man, truly present in  
this holy Sacrament.

**We adore you, O Lord**

Our Savior, God with us, faithful and rich  
in mercy

**We adore you, O Lord**

King and Lord of creation and of history

**We adore you, O Lord**

Conqueror of sin and death

**We adore you, O Lord**

Friend of humankind, the Risen One, the  
Living One who sits  
at the right hand of the Father.

**We adore you, O Lord**

We believe in you, O Lord  
Only begotten Son of the Father,  
descended from heaven for our salvation

**We believe in you, O Lord**

Heavenly physician, who bows down  
over our misery

**We believe in you, O Lord**

Lamb who was slain, who offer yourself to  
rescue us from evil

**We believe in you, O Lord**

Good Shepherd, who give your life for  
the flock which you love

**We believe in you, O Lord**

Living bread and medicine for  
immortality, who give us eternal life

**We believe in you, O Lord**

Deliver us, O Lord  
From the power of Satan and the  
seductions of the world

**Deliver us, O Lord**

From the pride and presumption of being  
able to do anything without you

**Deliver us, O Lord**

From the deceptions of fear and anxiety

**Deliver us, O Lord**

From unbelief and desperation

**Deliver us, O Lord**

From hardness of heart and the  
incapacity to love

**Deliver us, O Lord**

Save us, O Lord

From every evil that afflicts humanity

**Save us, O Lord**

From hunger, from famine and from  
egoism

**Save us, O Lord**

From illnesses, epidemics and the fear of  
our brothers and sisters

**Save us, O Lord**

From devastating madness, from ruthless  
interests and from violence

**Save us, O Lord**

From being deceived, from false  
information and the manipulation of  
consciences

**Save us, O Lord**

Comfort us, O Lord

Protect your Church which crosses the  
desert

**Comfort us, O Lord**

Protect humanity terrified by fear and  
anguish

**Comfort us, O Lord**

Protect the sick and the dying, oppressed  
by loneliness

**Comfort us, O Lord**

Protect doctors and healthcare providers  
exhausted by the difficulties they are  
facing

**Comfort us, O Lord**

Protect politicians and decision makers  
who bear the weight of having to make  
decisions

**Comfort us, O Lord**

Grant us your Spirit, O Lord

In the hour of trial and from confusion

**Grant us your Spirit, O Lord**

In temptation and in our fragility

**Grant us your Spirit, O Lord**

In the battle against evil and sin

**Grant us your Spirit, O Lord**

In the search for what is truly good and  
true joy

**Grant us your Spirit, O Lord**

in the decision to remain in you and in  
your friendship

**Grant us your Spirit, O Lord**

Open us to hope, O Lord

Should sin oppress us

**Open us to hope, O Lord**

Should hatred close our hearts

**Open us to hope, O Lord**

Should sorrow visit us

**Open us to hope, O Lord**

Should indifference cause us anguish

**Open us to hope, O Lord**

Should death overwhelm us

**Open us to hope, O Lord**

