

'HOLY WEEK – CONTINUING ON THE JOURNEY' - HOMILY – 9 APRIL 2017

CONTINUING ON THE JOURNEY

The Sacred Oils have already been blessed in the Cathedral last Thursday evening. They go out to all the parishes and places of pastoral ministry in our Archdiocese for the next 12 months.

Including all the thousands of baptisms and confirmations to come in our parishes
Including the people sick and injured who will be anointed with the Oil of the Infirm over the next 12 months.

Catholic Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander national leaders gathered in prayer at Minjerribah (Stradbroke Island) last Monday to Thursday.

Clergy of Brisbane Archdiocese gathered for a Convocation on Wednesday and Thursday. The most pressing issue was the sin and the crime and the evil of sexual abuse in the Church.

Other issues included:

Preparing reconciliation action plans (RAPs) for parishes and Archdiocesan agencies.
Announcement of a new resource on Laudato Si' on creation.

REFLECTING ON BOTH THE PALM AND THE PASSION

This Sunday we reflect on both the Palm and the Passion.

We take the time to ask what each dot point following means for us in our lives now.

WHAT DOES GOD SAY TO YOU, AND TO ME, IN EACH OF THESE EVENTS AND ENCOUNTERS IN THE PASSION AND DEATH OF JESUS?

You are invited to pray about each point.

The short Gospel reading on the Palm Procession by Jesus into Jerusalem. Matthew 21:1-11.

- Fulfil prophecy of the **king**, humble, riding on a donkey and a colt.
- Procession with great crowds in front and behind Jesus
- Hosanna
- Recognition of Jesus by the crowd *"This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee"*

The long Gospel reading of Matthew 26:14 – 27:66 including

- The Gift of the Eucharist at the Lord's Supper
- Prayer of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane
- The arrest of Jesus and the role of Judas
- Jesus before Caiaphas and the scribes and elders assembled
- Judas – remorse and death
- Denial by Peter three times
- Jesus before Pilate
- Choice to release the guilty (Barabbas) or the innocent (Jesus)
- Scourging and stripping of Jesus, ridiculing Jesus and crown of thorns

- Placing of sign “*This is Jesus. The King of the Jews*”
- Passion (Suffering)
- Simon of Cyrene co-opted to help carry the cross
- Crucifixion
- Jeering at Jesus
- Death of Jesus
- Signs: Temple veil split, earth quaked, resurrection of the many holy people from death.
- Centurion and guards terrified – and make a partial recognition of Jesus “In truth this was a son of God”
- The naming of some of the Galilean women who were followers of Jesus,
- Joseph of Arimathea
- The Burial of Jesus.
- The presence of Mary Magdala and the other Mary, remaining at the tomb.

CONTRAST BETWEEN POPULARITY AND SUFFERING, COURAGE, MISSION AND HOPE

Having prayed to God about each point, we notice the contrast.
The contrast between the **popularity** of the Palm Procession
And the **suffering, courage, mission and hope of Good Friday**.

HOW CAN SOMEONE SO POPULAR BE DESERTED SO QUICKLY?

IN TIMES OF TROUBLE DO WE DESERT GOD?

AND, IF SO, IS IT LACK OF COURAGE OR SOMETHING MORE?

WHAT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING OF ‘THE MISSION’ OF JESUS?

WHAT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING OF HOW WE SHARE IN THAT MISSION BY OUR FAITH, OUR LIFESTYLE CHOICES, OUR PRAYER AND OUR COMMITMENTS?

Thinking of the world around us, and of the sacred ceremonies to come this week, we continue.

PALM SUNDAY

On Palm Sunday, there is a tradition of **Palm Sunday Processions**.

In Brisbane there is the practice of Christians processing for a more just world.

Today the Procession is in the city of **Brisbane** at 2pm.

Already earlier in Lent, there has been the annual **March for Peace in Mumbai**, India.

And in some places, Lenten vigils of **support for human life**,

And for **refugees and asylum seekers, and genuine peace**.

This year after Palm Sunday Mass in Erbil, Iraq,

A long **procession will enter the Nineveh Plains**,

Including the ancient Christian towns so devastated in recent times.

GOOD FRIDAY

On Good Friday there is [THE WAY OF THE CROSS](#).

In Rome, an annual solidarity walk is organised by the Pope John XXIII Community
In support of the **victims of human trafficking, especially women and girls.**

The wording of reflections for the **Stations of the Cross** can reflect the plight of local people.
The recent devastation of **floods** in Colombia and Peru,
And locally in central and south-east Queensland
And northern New South Wales.

The plight of people in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Somalia, northern Nigeria and other nations.

The poverty, injustices, inequalities, starvation, malnourishment dirty water.

Child and adult sexual abuse in Church, secular and religious institutions, domestic violence.

Corruption, denial of basic human rights.

Denial of religious freedom.

We can add to the list.

All are placed before the cross.

Jesus bringing hope to the devastated parts of our world

And to the devastated parts of our own lives.

The Passion and Death of Jesus are read aloud on Palm Sunday and Good Friday.

In our busy lives we take the time to hear and feel and pray God's Word.

We take time to feel the pain and to be touched deeply by the love and mercy of God.

We join together, we pray together, we celebrate together.

Our 2016-2017 refugee families from Iraq and Syria celebrate their first Easter here

In Brisbane and in Logan cities.

We thank God for them.

The parishes of our Archdiocese are all unique and celebrate our ethnic diversity as Jesus
Christ died and rose for all.

HOLY THURSDAY

On Holy Thursday we celebrate:

The intimate gift of Jesus in the Eucharist,

The 'Washing of the Feet' as an act of service and humility,

And a brief procession to the 'Altar of Repose' for time in adoration before God in love

HOLY SATURDAY

A much shorter procession is held on Holy Saturday evening as Catholics gather around the
Easter Fire.

We highlight our call to care for God's creation.

We remember the oneness of our Indigenous Sisters and Brothers with the land.

We remember our farmers and producers who bring forward the fruits of the land.

The Easter Candle is lit and we process into a darkened church with the Candle bringing
forth light.

Three times the cantor proclaims "**The Light of Christ**".

And each time we proclaim together "**Thanks be to God**".

In the Easter journey, we renew our baptismal promises as a family,
And we pray for the Adults in our parish community, and in our churches throughout the world who will be

- Received into the Catholic Church
- Baptised
- Confirmed
- Receive Jesus in Holy Communion during the **Holy Saturday** Eucharist.

We thank God for them.

And we in solidarity pray for our world.

And we journey together in faith this Holy Week.

Amen

Fr Gerry

[Fr. Gerry Hefferan – Holy Week - Continuing on the *Journey* - 9 April 2017]

[Readings: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/040917.cfm>]

[Parish Facebook: <http://bit.ly/parishFacebook09042017>]