



St Felix deValois Parish

550 Chapel Road, Bankstown, NSW 2200, Australia

Fr Van Nguyen, Parish Priest

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Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord - Yr A - 5 April 2020

Dear parishioners,

God's love and blessings to you all in this very difficult time!

Whilst we are living through unprecedented events please be assured that the parish is continuing to work to serve you and help you foster your relationship with Our Lord and strengthen our community.

LIVE STREAMING OF HOLY MASS

Palm Sunday - 5 April - 10.00am.

Holy Thursday - 9 April - 7.30pm.

Good Friday - 10 April - 3.00pm.

Easter Vigil - 11 April - 7.00pm.

Easter Sunday - 12 April - 10.00am.

Please follow this link to watch the Mass: <https://facebook.com/stfelixdevaloisparishbankstown/>

Channel 7 will live broadcast from St Mary's Cathedral on Good Friday at 3.00pm and Easter Sunday at 10.30am.

RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN

For those with young children, the Cath Family organisation have generously made all their resources for children free in this time our churches are closed. Feel free to have a look at some of their resources that can help children to pray and continue to learn about their faith by clicking this link:

<https://cathfamily.org/cathkids-faith-unlimited/>.

CONNECTING THROUGH PHONE

We are looking to set up a team of people who regularly call and keep in contact with the more isolated in our community. This is a vital service of love our parish community can provide in these usual times. If you are struggling during this time of isolation or know of somebody who is feel free

to contact us through this email address or the parish office (9790 1933) and we will see that they are regularly called. If you wish to be part of this apostolate reply to this email and we will contact you during the week.

CONFESSIONS

We remind you in this Season of Lent of the continuing importance of examination of conscience and making an act of contrition. As according to Archbishop Fisher's instructions, the sacrament of Penance will still be available in the Archdiocese whilst following the government regulations and as such we will respond to individual requests for the Sacrament of Penance. Please contact the parish and we will provide details.

We will continue update information and publish resources through:

- the parish website <https://www.stfelixparish.org.au/>
- the parish bulletin: <https://www.stfelixparish.org.au/bulletins/>
- our outreach email: stfelix.outreach@gmail.com
- the parish Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/stfelixdevaloisparishbankstown/>
- the parish office: 9790 1933

Please be assured of our continued support, prayers and availability in this time.

***Our Lady, Help of Christians, of Lourdes, and of Good Health, pray for us.
Saint Felix, pray for us.***

Yours in Christ,

Fr Van Vuong Nguyen PP

Fr Ronnie Maree

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Penitential Act

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Collect

Let us pray.

Almighty ever-living God,
who as an example of humility for the human race
to follow caused our Saviour to take flesh and
submit to the Cross,
graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of
patient suffering
and so merit a share in his Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

First Reading - Isaiah 50:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.

The Lord has given me
a disciple's tongue.

So that I may know how to reply to the wearied
he provides me with speech.

Each morning he wakes me to hear,
to listen like a disciple.

The Lord has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.

I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.

The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.' **R.**

Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.
I can count every one of my bones. **R.**

They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me! **R.**

I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons.' **R.**

Second Reading - Philippians 2:6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.

His state was divine,
yet Christ Jesus did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are,
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross.

Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel - Matthew 27:11-54 (short version)

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate, the governor, and the governor put to him this question, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' Jesus replied, 'It is you who say it.' But when he was accused by the chief priests and the elders he refused to answer at all. Pilate then said to him, 'Do you not hear how many charges they have brought against you?' But to the governor's complete amazement, he offered no reply to any of the charges.

At festival time it was the governor's practice to release a prisoner for the people, anyone they chose. Now there was at that time a notorious prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Which do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?' For Pilate knew it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over.

Now as he was seated in the chair of judgment, his wife sent him a message, 'Have nothing to do with that man; I have been upset all day by a dream I had about him.'

The chief priests and the elders, however, had persuaded the crowd to demand the release of Barabbas and the execution of Jesus. So when the governor spoke and asked them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' they said 'Barabbas'. 'But in that case,' Pilate said to them 'what am I to do with Jesus who is called Christ?' They all said, 'Let him be crucified!' 'Why?' he asked 'What harm has he done?' But they shouted all the louder, 'Let him be crucified!' Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, that in fact a riot was imminent. So he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd and said, 'I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your concern.' And the people, to a man, shouted back, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' Then he released Barabbas for them. He ordered Jesus to be first scourged and then handed over to be

crucified.

The governor's soldiers took Jesus with them into the Praetorium and collected the whole cohort round him. Then they stripped him and made him wear a scarlet cloak, and having twisted some thorns into a crown they put this on his head and placed a reed in his right hand. To make fun of him they knelt to him saying, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' And they spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head with it. And when they had finished making fun of him, they took off the cloak and dressed him in his own clothes and led him away to crucify him.

On their way out, they came across a man from Cyrene, Simon by name, and enlisted him to carry his cross. When they had reached a place called Golgotha, that is, the place of the skull, they gave him wine to drink mixed with gall, which he tasted but refused to drink. When they had finished crucifying him they shared out his clothing by casting lots, and then sat down and stayed there keeping guard over him.

Above his head was placed the charge against him: it read: 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.' At the same time two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said 'So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself! If you are God's son, come down from the cross!' The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him in the same way. 'He saved others,' they said 'he cannot save himself. He is the king of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He put his trust in God; now let God rescue him if he wants him. For he did say, "I am the son of God."'" Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in the same way.

From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. 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!' When some of those who stood there heard this, they said, 'The man is calling on Elijah,' and one of them quickly ran to get a sponge which he dipped in vinegar and putting it on a reed, gave it to him to drink. 'Wait!' said the rest of them 'and see if Elijah will come to save him.' But Jesus again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

All kneel and pause a moment.

At that, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked; the rocks were split; the tombs opened and the bodies of many holy men rose from the dead, and these, after his resurrection, came out of the tombs, entered the Holy City and appeared to a number of people. Meanwhile the centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, had seen the earthquake and all that was taking place, and they were terrified and said, 'In truth this was a son of God.'

Take time to reflect on the Gospel.
You may like to move forward and read the reflections.

The Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten not made, consubstantial with the Father
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
He came down from heaven
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin
Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right
hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and
the dead and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who
with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and look forward to the resurrection of the dead and
the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant: Our King has entered the city. Our palms
and cries of homage fade away, as the words of the
gospel tell the story of his suffering and death. Let
us bring our prayers to the Father, through the Son
he gave up for us, with love beyond our
comprehension.

For the Church and her members around the world
following the Saviour during Holy Week, let us pray
to the Lord.

For people of all races and nations who seek peace,
let us pray to the Lord.

For those who suffer mental, physical, or spiritual
anguish, let us pray to the Lord.

For a spirit of penance, reflection, and gratitude
during these chosen days, let us pray to the Lord.

For the end of the coronavirus pandemic, for all the
health care professionals fighting the disease and
for all those affected by the virus, let us pray to the
Lord.

For the gentle repose of the faithful departed, let us
pray to the Lord.

Celebrant: Lord and Father, with serene courage
your Son went forth to die for us.
Grant us a share in his strength as we bring these
prayers before you. We ask this through Christ our
Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

**Due to the restrictions regarding the celebration
of Mass join in saying this prayer expressing
your desire to be in union with Jesus Christ and
to receive Him in the Eucharist. Recite the
prayer below slowly, meditating carefully on
each word. Believe that Jesus will give you the
grace of a real encounter with Him.**

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace
You as if You were already there and unite myself
wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated
from You. **Amen.**

Leader: May the Lord guide your hearts in the way
of his love and fill you with Christ-like patience.

Amen.

May he give you strength to walk in newness of life
and to please him in all things.

Amen.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the
Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord – Year A – 5 April 2020

(A Reflection by Fr Ronnie Maree)

*Sometimes they strew His way,
And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King:
Then "Crucify!"
Is all their breath,
And for His death
They thirst and cry.*

These words from one of my favourite Holy Week hymns, *My song is love unknown*, seem to me to perfectly capture the feeling of Palm Sunday and they display the great change that occurs as we celebrate the liturgy set down for us today.

Our Mass begins in a joyful and triumphant atmosphere. We cry out "Hosanna to the Son of David, the King of Israel" and read the Gospel of Jesus' royal entry into Jerusalem. Carrying blessed palms, the symbols of victory and kingship, we process with Jesus, *strewing His way* and *His sweet praises sing* with the ancient hymn "All glory, laud and honour to you Redeemer King."

But then there is a sudden change. We read the Passion of Our Lord and we no longer hear triumph, praise and joy but "*Crucify!*" *is all their breath*. No longer do we hear people thirsting and crying for salvation with shouts of "Hosanna" but rather "*for His death they thirst and cry.*" In Masses well celebrated you can feel this change and the symbols, music and prayers of the liturgy allow us to enter into this shift from "Hosanna" to "Crucify."

It is very interesting to take some time and ponder what changed? What happened for these people to abandon their new-found King in such a short period of time? But more importantly than looking to those crowds, the flow from "Hosanna" to "Crucify" should lead us to ask what changes in us? Because what happened at that first Holy Week, what happens in the liturgy on Palm Sunday, is the story of faithfulness and unfaithfulness in every Christian soul. We worship God and offer Him praise, we profess our faith in Him and we proclaim Him as king. But we also, through our sins, abandon, deny and betray Him. By our sins we call for His death.

Our Lady and Saint John with a small group of disciples remained faithful and followed Jesus from the "Hosannas" through to the shouts of "Crucify!" Their faithfulness stands as challenge to us this Holy Week, and every week of our lives. They communicate to us the challenge of remaining constantly faithful to Jesus through the entire experience of Holy Week as it plays out in our daily lives, knowing that it involves accepting the cross but has the promise of the Resurrection.

This challenge calls for a personal and intentional desire on our part. It is deeply saddening that we are cut off from receiving Our Lord's Body and Blood in the Mass. But perhaps this forced exile from our government could shake up our faith from being a matter of merely routine into a much more personal and intentional desire to be united to Christ. Our current circumstances dictate that the totality of our faith life cannot just be showing up to Mass on Sunday as a matter of routine but we must personally desire and take steps to seek nourishment from and union with Christ, which finds its fullness in Mass. If the last couple of weeks of Church being closed has resulted in a practical pause in our relationship with Christ then we have work to do. Our forefathers who were persecuted and cut off from the sacraments up and down the ages did not look on their troubles as an opportunity to hit the "pause button" but to go deeper. What is on offer to us, as always, is a relationship that has, at its heart, the desire to be with Christ...the same desire Our Lady and St John displayed in that first Holy Week.

One of the graces of this time is undoubtedly many people's exposure to the practice of making an *Act of Spiritual Communion*. Many people have told me that they have never prayed it before and have been touched by its beauty. I highlight it (and encourage you to make it a regular part of your spiritual life) because as we pray for Christ to come spiritually into our hearts and embrace Him and being united wholly to Him I think it speaks directly to this desire for union that should animate our whole faith life.

Let us ask Christ that He may grant us during this Holy Week, and this pandemic, the grace of an ever-deepening desire to always be united to Him, so that we may truly sing the words of the final verse of that favourite hymn of mine:

*Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine;
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine.
**This is my Friend,
In whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend.***



Mass Intentions Recently Deceased: Fr Ray Farrell, Max Goodwin.

Anniversary: Maria Le Thi Tam; Gioan Baotixita Bui Van Tiep; Rosa Tran Thi Be

Deceased:

Sick: Marie Abi-Saab, Tom Quilty, Jason Timbs & Bart Hennely, Dau (Xuan); Gerard Go; Fatima Fernandes; Marian Periera; Catherine & Lourdes Raspanti; baby Alan Dien Quan Nguyen; Monina Rodriguez Pineda; Tenshi Asriel Magdaleno Arcenas; Rose Nuner; Maria Carta; Teresita Martinez; Maria Kovatsun; Frannie; Madelyn Nicole; Jun Ibarra; Abida Gill; Vo Van Kiet; Maria Bui Thi Don; Josette Ackad; Nivea Wani; Diana Emilie Perez; Billy; Ginette Sharok.



As Australia intensifies its response to meet the unprecedented challenges of COVID-19, Caritas Australia is urging thousands across Australia to get involved in Project Compassion and act in solidarity with those most marginalised globally. "The need for support and donations during Caritas Australia's Project Compassion which takes place over Lent is more urgent than ever. If you are in a position to donate to Caritas Australia, your donation will truly save lives." Go to the Caritas website <https://www.caritas.org.au/> to find out how you can help.

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police.

If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org.

You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

Catechist & Friendship Group: Bev Lamaro 0409 710 703; **Choir:** Alison De Sousa 0421 660 187;
Youth: Aurora Doueihy 0428 755 022; **Pastoral Council:** Patrick Abou-rizk 0416 035 993;
St Vincent de Paul: Diago Rodrigues 9791 5209 ; **Bankstown Josephite Associates:** Robyn Molloy 9707 1292;
Children's Liturgy: Marie El-Chaar 9709 3451; **Cemetery Committee:** Maureen Vincent 9790 4217;
Sacramental co-ordinator: Gloria Booby 0413 294 224; **Safeguarding Officer:** Anthony Chadrawy 9790 1933;
Polish Priests: 8783 0533; **De La Salle Brothers:** 9708 2692;
St. Felix Primary School: 9796 7875 Frances Bonanno - Principal;
LaSalle Catholic College: 9793 5600 Mr Michael Egan - Principal;
Archdiocesan Website: www.sydney.catholic.org.au

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM REQUEST FORM

Would you like to become a credit card contributor to the Parish?

Especially now with the Church forced to close, we have no weekly envelopes to keep us going.

We are asking Parishioners to make their donations via credit card in order for the Parish to function. please send an e-mail with the following details to Marie at admin@stfelixparish.org.au

Name..... Telephone No.:

Address:.....

Email :

Current Envelope Number:..... OR

I would like to commence Planned Giving payments via credit card.