

St. Patrick's Parish

Palm Sunday
5th April 2020

Canon Paul Gargaro

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The Season of Lent closes with Holy Week. The liturgy is not afraid of tragedy. It makes us live the hour of Jesus, that Hour at once dark and glorious for which he said he had come. We follow his every footstep, from the triumphant entry into Jerusalem acclaimed by the crowd of his followers, to the loneliness of Golgotha where he is abandoned by almost everyone, even those he himself had chosen and for whom he gives his life. Everything happens quickly and seems to collapse. Yet, even in what seems complete dereliction – “Father, why have you deserted me?” – Jesus, with outstretched arms, attracts and gathers to himself mankind and the universe. All seems lost, all is about to begin.

PALM SUNDAY is celebrated this Sunday. Canon Gargaro will bless the palms and these will be made available when our church is re-opened.

Good Friday is a day of **Fasting and Abstinence**- having only one full meal which is sufficient to maintain one's strength. Two other meatless meals are allowed, light and penitential. Everyone 14 years of age and older is bound to the law of abstinence, and everyone 18 years of age but not yet 60 is bound to the law of fasting, being mindful of one's own physical condition at this time.

Confession- although you may not be able to get to confession, Good Friday would be a good day to spend some time reflecting on your life and any sins for which you would ask forgiveness, making an act of sorrow.

Act of Sorrow Prayer

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Saviour Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

Flourish has now been published as an online only edition – you can download it for free at

<http://www.flourishnewspaper.co.uk/downloads/Flourish-April-2020.pdf>

Parish Children (young and old)- Tamara, our Youth Worker has been producing material for our children and we have been publishing this on our website. Take the time to have a look as this may be something you can share with grandchildren or even use yourself.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

RIP: Desmond McCarthy
Anniversaries: John Graham, Thomas McCann,
Jim Hamilton, Michael McCann



HOLY WEEK



Today is the beginning of Holy Week. This is the most important time in the Church's year when we celebrate the death and Resurrection of Christ through the beautiful liturgies of the Easter Triduum. The Vatican has adapted these liturgies to take account of the closure of the churches. Although you cannot attend them, please make a special effort to participate in these times of prayer as a sign that our whole life is a sharing in the life and death of Our Lord, looking forward to sharing with Him in eternal life.

The Archbishop will be celebrating the following liturgies in the Cathedral:

Palm Sunday 12 noon

Holy Thursday 6pm

Good Friday 3pm

Easter Vigil 8.30pm

These will all be streamed live and can be accessed using the link on their website www.cathedralq1.org or by going directly to the link <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-andrews-cathedral>

Canon Gargaro will do his best to record his celebrations in St Patrick's and will post them on Facebook.

On **Holy Thursday** night the Blessed Sacrament will be moved to the Altar of Repose where **Night Prayer** will be said. This, too, will be recorded.

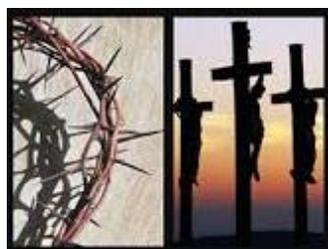
In our own homes on Good Friday we may want to create a prayer space using a candle and a cross, lighting the candle at 3pm.

THE EASTER TRIDUUM (THE THREE DAYS)



On **Holy Thursday** the washing of feet had an unsuspected depth of meaning. When inspired by love, the least service rendered to one's neighbour takes on an extraordinary dimension; it foreshadows that total sacrifice for which everyone should be prepared; that full communion towards which we should all be moving. But we can only do this by accepting the Servant Christ and following him – even to the

suffering of his passion. In this we must let an authentic spirit of poverty awaken in us. Only then will the revealing of the Father's compassion lead us to understand also the sense of his Son's sacrifice. And, with our eyes finally opened to the needs of our brothers, we shall be moved to become like Jesus, people who see and act.



"They will look on the one they have pierced." (John 19:37). The liturgy of **Good Friday** gives full expression to this attitude of faith with which the Church looks on the Lamb sacrificed since the foundation of the world. He, indeed, is worthy to receive the Book and to open for us the sealed pages. This perfect High Priest prays

with us on that mountain where "God provides" (Gen 22:14) the victim for sacrifice. Come let us adore the Lord raised up between heaven and earth.

**Easter
Vigil**

In this Easter Vigil, after a day's silence during which the Church, as it were, holds her breath in suspense before the empty tabernacles in her places of worship, a thrilling joy breaks out. Christ has gone down into the valley of death and has trampled death underfoot! On the third day he rose again..."we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come"- this is the core of our faith.

Visiting of Sick and Housebound:- Canon Gargaro is not permitted to visit the sick and housebound as these are high risk people and we need to avoid bringing the virus to them.

Virtual Mass:- the Cathedral streams Mass 3 times per day (0815, 1300, 1715 on Weekdays and on Sundays with Vigil Mass Saturday at 1715, Sundays 1000, 1200, 1715). You can join in spiritually through the link on their website or by going directly to the link <https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-andrews-cathedral>

Bulletin:- we will continue to produce a bulletin which will be posted on Facebook and on the website.

Anniversaries and notification of deaths:- please continue to let us know whom you wish to pray for either by email, a private message on our Facebook page, by phoning the parish or by dropping a note through the house door.



Praying for the sick:- although we will not publish names of the sick, Canon Gargaro will pray for your sick. Please let him know any names of those you wish him to pray for either by email, a private message on our Facebook page, by phoning the parish or by dropping a note through the house door.

Praying in the church- although you are not able to visit the church your candles will continue to be lit at the tabernacle to pray for all who are sick, all who have died and all who suffer.

Praying at Home:- the Scottish Bishops have prepared a leaflet that can be used at home. We have adapted this so that it is relevant for this Sunday This will be available on our Facebook page and the Parish website.

Parish Wellbeing:- we have put 2 measures in place to help with our wellbeing as a community.

1. We are aware that the over 70s are strongly advised to remain at home and that families may find themselves in self isolation for 14 days. We propose to offer a delivery service for essential items, subject to availability, during this time. Please phone the church house on 0141 221 3579 to let us know what you need. One of our parishioners will then pick up the shopping and deliver it to your door. If no-one is in, please leave a message and we will get back to you as quickly as we can.
2. We know that people may face hardship through loss of income. We hope to provide essential items free to people in such circumstances as part of our pastoral care for our community. Again, please phone the church house on 0141 221 3579 making it clear that you are looking for the free items.

Parish Finances:- a number of parishioners have asked how we will cope with no income and how they are to make contributions to the parish so that our basic bills can be covered. The Finance Committee have had a brief meeting and would advise the following:

- We have reduced the amount of time the heating will be on in the church to cut down on heating bills.
- Donations can be made in several ways. Gift Aid envelopes or envelopes with donations can be popped through the door to the church house. Thank you for donations to date!
- If you wish to donate online you can transfer a donation to the Parish Account. Sort Code 83-20-27. Account number 00255011
- This may be a time of financial hardship and we fully understand that money may be tight. Do not feel under pressure to donate.