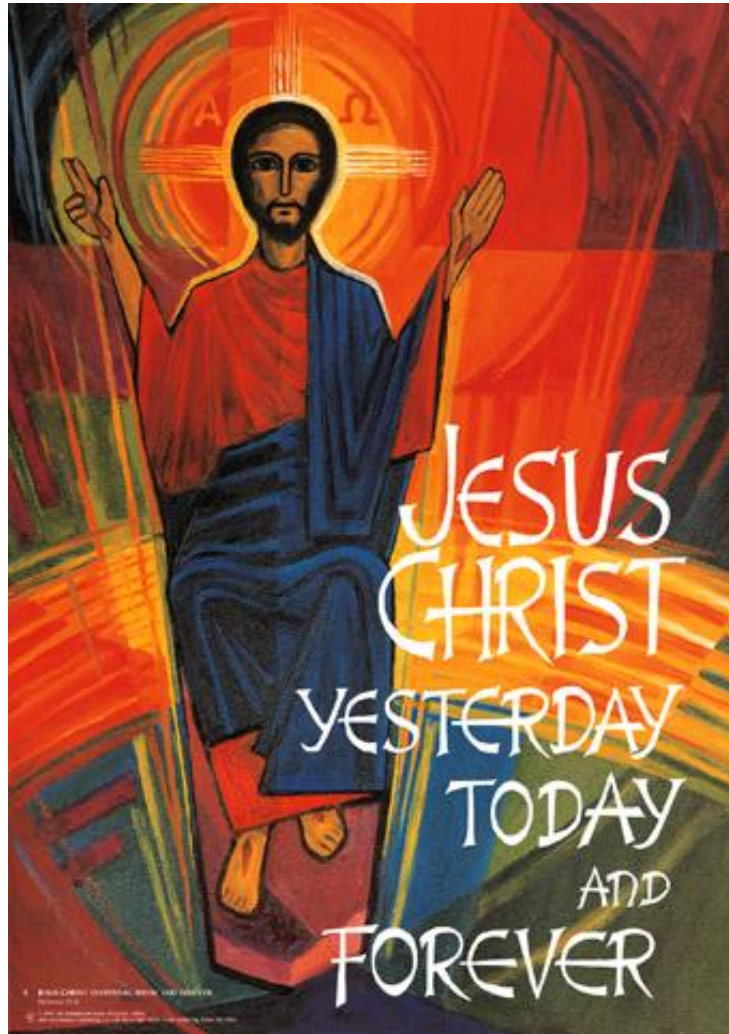


HOLY WEEK



**Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary,
Bexhill on Sea**

(St Mary Magdalene's, Town Centre & St Martha's Little Common)

HOLY WEEK

Holy Week is the most important week in the Church's year. It is that time between the two Sundays of Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday where we recall and live again that dramatic last week in the earthly life of our Lord.

We remember and live the moments from our Lord's joyful entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, through the Last Supper in the Upper Room on Holy Thursday, to his betrayal, arrest, death on the Cross on Good Friday, through the deathly silence of Holy Saturday and finally to his glorious Resurrection which we celebrate after the sun has set on Holy Saturday and darkness has fallen.

It is in the Church's liturgies that we recall these events. It is one of the mysteries of our faith that when we celebrate these liturgies - as we call them to mind and remember them (anamnesis) - in a mysterious and supernatural way these events are made actual and present, and we truly live them. The custom of veiling the statues and Crosses in churches during these days reflects this. In church we are not simply looking at things which happened long ago, but in the liturgy, we are with our Blessed Lord at the Last Supper; we are with him on the way of the Cross; we are truly there at the foot of the Cross on Calvary with our Blessed Lady and the beloved Apostle John; and finally, we too are witnesses to his glorious Resurrection.

PALM SUNDAY

Holy Week begins today with our Lord's entry into Jerusalem. We receive palms before Mass which will be blessed, and where possible there will be a procession before the Mass. The palms we receive today we keep displayed in our homes throughout the year.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

After 10 am Mass on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

Wednesday is often called "Spy Wednesday" because in the day's Gospel we hear of Judas' plan to betray Jesus. There will be time for Confession after the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning Masses.

CHRISM MASS

Wednesday 6:00 pm, Arundel Cathedral

On the eve of the Triduum all priests come together to concelebrate Mass with their bishop in his cathedral. During this Mass, they renew their priestly promises: promises of ever trying to conform themselves to Christ, of faithfully celebrating the sacraments (given to us by the Lord and entrusted to his bride, the Church) and of teaching the Faith.

EASTER TRIDUUM

These are the most solemn days of the Church's year. The Triduum (Three Days) are celebrated as a single liturgical action beginning with the Mass of the Last Supper on Thursday and finishing at the end of the Easter Vigil on Saturday night.

The Last Supper, our Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection are seen as a single whole, in truth one Mass: "*This is my body, given up for you*". What he says at the Last Supper he does on the Cross a few hours later. The Passion of our Lord gives us the perfect example of love, of obedience, of humility and of the other virtues necessary for salvation. His Passion also opens for us the hope of eternal life: "*He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed*" (1 Peter 2:24).

MAUNDY THURSDAY, EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER 8:00 pm, St Mary Magdalene's

This evening we have Mass in the Church at 8:00 pm when in a special way we commemorate the Last Supper of the Lord with his apostles. Jesus himself wanted this, and here he gives us the Mass which to this day the Church continues to celebrate.

The principal mysteries commemorated in this Mass are the Institution of the Eucharist, the conferring of the ministerial priesthood, and the new commandment of love seen in Jesus' washing of the twelve Apostles' feet. After this supper Jesus goes straight to the Garden of Gethsemane. For us the liturgy **continues** as we take the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Repose where as in Gethsemane Jesus asks us to "watch and pray" close to him, culminating with night prayer of the Church at 10.45pm.

GOOD FRIDAY

Today is a day of penance (fasting and abstinence) and of prayer.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS 10.30 am – St Martha’s Church

SOLEMN CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S PASSION –

3:00 pm, St Mary Magdalene’s

The Cross of our Lord is the greatest visible expression of love the world has ever seen. Even without words Christ preaches from the Cross. Today’s liturgy, which is not a Mass, centres on the Gospel of our Lord’s Passion, the Adoration of the Holy Cross - the source of our salvation - and Holy Communion. The Church will be open for prayer all day.

**VESPERS OF GOOD FRIDAY with Veneration of the Cross –
7pm, St Martha’s, Little Common.**

HOLY SATURDAY

*Today, no Sacraments are celebrated except confessions at 9.30 am,
St Mary Magdalene’s. It is a day of great silence.*

*Christians are invited to guard an interior recollection to better
prepare themselves for the Easter Vigil, the night of light.*

EASTER VIGIL MASS 8.30 pm, St Mary Magdalene’s

This Most Holy Night begins outside around the Easter fire, which symbolises Christ the light, now risen with a light that can nevermore be extinguished. After entering the church lit by candlelight, we hear readings from the Sacred Scriptures recalling how God has faithfully led his people through history. With renewed faith we renew the promises of our own baptism, that event by which we are born into God’s family. We also experience in truth that the Church is alive, that she renews herself always and is beautiful and holy because she is willed and founded on Christ who, now risen, dies no more. At the Easter Vigil new Christians are baptised and others are received into Full communion with the Catholic Church.

EASTER SUNDAY

Jesus Christ is truly risen and lives. His promise is to give this new and eternal life to all who believe in him. Thank you, Jesus!

*We wish you and your dear loved ones a Blessed and Holy Easter.
Fr Simon, Fr Rajesh, Deacon Simon & the Parish Team.*