

SUNDAY MASS

PROCESSION ANTIPHON:

Hosanna to the Son of David, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel: Hosanna in the highest.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:1-11

PSALMS: 24 and 47

FIRST READING (MASS): Isaiah 50:4-7

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 22

RESPONSE:

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

1. 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, for in him he delights'. **R**
2. For dogs have surrounded me;
a band of the wicked besets me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet;
I can count every one of my bones. **R**
3. They divide my clothing among them,
they cast lots for my robe.
But you, O Lord, do not stay afar off;
my strength, make haste to help me! **R**
4. I will tell of your name to my kin,
and praise you in the midst of the assembly;
'You who fear the Lord, give him praise;
all descendants of Jacob, give him glory;
revere him, all you descendants of Israel'. **R**

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:6-11.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Glory and praise to you, O Christ. Christ became obedient for us unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him; and bestowed on him the name which is above every name. Glory and praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL: Matthew 26:14-27:66.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 30 Mar HOLY WEEK

Isaiah 42:1-7; Psalm 27; John 12:1-11

In your prayer each day this week, enter into Jesus' last days, from his entry into Jerusalem to his crucifixion and resurrection, experiencing his story as your own.

Tue 31 Mar HOLY WEEK

Isaiah 49:1-6; Psalm 71; John 13:21-33.36-38

Use this holy time for deeper prayer on the selfless love shown in Jesus' willingness to suffer and die; and on fasting, reconciliation, and preparing your hearts for the joy of Easter.

Wed 1 Apr HOLY WEEK

Isaiah 50:4-9; Psalm 69; Matthew 26:14-25

"There are some who say that true freedom means thinking only about ourselves, enjoying life, doing whatever we want without regard for others. This is not freedom, but a hidden slavery." – Pope Francis

Thu 2 Apr HOLY THURSDAY

Exodus 12:1-8.11-14; Psalm 116; John 13:1-15

This night marks the establishment of a New Covenant through Christ's sacrifice, a new priesthood, and a new Passover. Christ's sacrificial, servant leadership, urges us to serve others in humility.

Fri 3 Apr GOOD FRIDAY

Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 31; John 18:1-19:42

Today we are invited to stand at the foot of the Cross, reflecting on the immenseness of God's love shown in his Son's pain and surrender; and on God's solidarity with all human pain.

Sat 4 Apr HOLY SATURDAY

Genesis 1:1-2:2; Psalm 104; Mark 16:1-7

Help me, dear Lord, to enter into the sorrow and the silence of this Holy Saturday. As I keep vigil, awaiting the celebration of your Resurrection, fill me with hope.

Sun 5 Apr RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Acts 10:34.37-43; Psalm 118; Matthew 28:1-10

The Resurrection is the ultimate victory over sin and death, offering hope, new life, and transformation through God's infinite love. We are called to share his joy, show mercy, and live in the power of the Risen Christ.

KEY: SOLEMNITY: FEAST: Memorial; (Optional Memorial)

Catholic Link

DILEXI TE, "I HAVE LOVED YOU"

Palm Sunday • Year A
Divine Office: Week II • 29 March 2026

Palm Sunday

In one of the forms of prayer known as imaginative meditation, you place yourself in a biblical narrative and imagine yourself as one of the characters or images in the story. A popular example is the story of the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4, where you imagine yourself as the well itself, and Jesus asks you to let a spiritual "bucket" down into the depth of your being, haul it up and then offer it to him, with whatever comes to the surface.

St Teresa of Avila often travelled around by donkey, so in prayer she may have imagined herself like Jesus in the Palm Sunday narrative today of Jesus riding on a donkey. But there was a twist on one occasion. There is a story (perhaps apocryphal) about her using a donkey to illustrate a moment of humorous complaint to God in prayer, when God gave her a lesson in humility. Teresa was once thrown from a donkey into the mud. Complaining to God about the hardship, she said, "Lord, why would you let this happen?" God answers: "Teresa, this is how I treat my friends." To which Teresa retorts: "No wonder you have so few!"

This exchange highlights her pragmatic, down-to-earth personality and is often used to emphasize Christian lessons on humility and accepting suffering as a sign of God's favour.

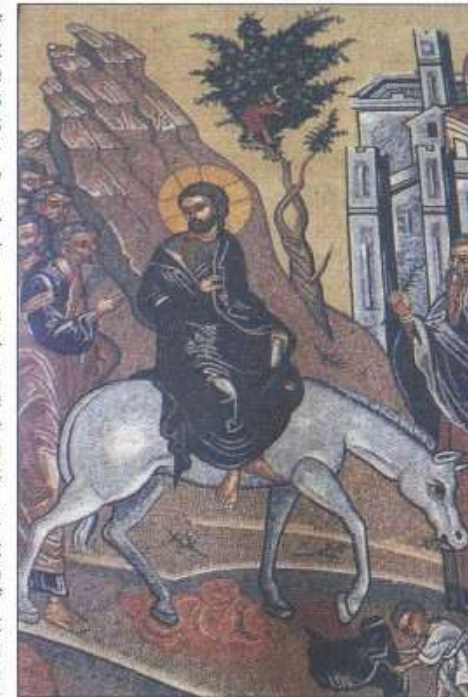
Saint Teresa has a fellow Spanish saint who more overtly does see himself in the Palm Sunday narrative of Jesus entering Jerusalem riding on a donkey. This saint is Josemaría Escrivá, closer to our time, 1902-1975. He is

known for having a deep, personal devotion to the humble donkey that Jesus used during his entry into Jerusalem. St Josemaría often drew spiritual conclusions from this Gospel scene, reflecting on humility and service. He emphasized that Jesus, the King of Kings, chose a poor, simple donkey as his means of entry into Jerusalem.

St Josemaría often used this image to teach Christians that they should aspire to be like the donkey, a humble instrument that carries Christ to others, without seeking personal glory. If we allow Jesus to reign in us as king, he will make do with a poor animal to ride on, transforming our imperfections into a means of serving him and bringing him to the world.

True, it might be difficult imagining oneself as a donkey carrying Christ, but it is not an uncommon image that Christians have reflected on,

emphasizing being a humble, ordinary vessel that God uses to do good in the world. Getting back to Saint Teresa, she said that "Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours...". Through our baptism and confirmation into Christ, we have committed ourselves to the mission of carrying him to others. Those with the name Christopher have an added advantage. The name means one who carries Christ. But on this Palm Sunday we all have the right and duty to assume that name, more properly its deeper meaning, as we carry Christ to others by our humility, our acts of charity and service, and our mission to proclaim him as the Saviour of the world.



St Patrick's Catholic Church Benoni

Founded 1910

Archdiocese of Johannesburg South Africa

Parish Priest: Fr David Evans
 Parish Secretary: Judy Joseph
 Bookkeeper: Tanya Charles
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 106 Woburn Avenue, Benoni

Mass Times	Tues 09h30	Wed No mass	Thurs No Mass	Fri 08h00	Sat 08h00 17h00	Sun 07h30 10h00	Confessions Tues 10h00 Sat 08h30
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Baptism of children: Book with the parish secretary and collect the form. Attendance of one short instruction is required.

Please support your parish: "St Patrick's Catholic Church" Benoni, Standard Bank. Current Account number: 021 095 612 (Branch code: 013042). To join our monthly Dedicated Giving contact Tanya; bookkeeper@stpatricksbenoni.co.za or on 060 327 2998.

Our "Society of St Vincent de Paul" helps the poor – on our behalf – irrespective of race, colour or creed. Please support them: Society of St Vincent de Paul, Standard Bank, Boksburg, Current Account no. 220930287.

We pray for Antonio Martinho who has died: may he rest in peace and rise in glory to live in joy in the kingdom forever.

A second collection for the **Bishops' Lenten Appeal** will be taken during Lent. This is for the needy so we ask you to give generously.

Saint Vincent de Paul will be taking their monthly collection, after all masses today.

The octave of Easter (the Eight Day Solemnity) concludes next Sunday, the second Sunday of Easter which is Divine Mercy Sunday

To make a donation to St Patrick's or give your collection at mass: Use SNAPSCAN by downloading the app on your phone and holding it over the QR code on the right.



Palm Sunday

Sunday Missal page Weekday Missal page

Holy Week and Easter			
Sunday 29 March	Palm Sunday	Mass as usual	
		10h00 Mass with Procession	
Tuesday 31 March		09h30	Mass
Thursday 2 April	Holy Thursday	17h30	The Lord's Supper
Friday 3 April	Good Friday	10h00	Stations of the Cross
		15h00	The Lord's Passion
Saturday 4 April	Easter - The Resurrection of the Lord	17h00	Easter Vigil
Sunday 5 April		07h30	Easter Mass
		10h00	Easter Mass
		No evening Mass	
For all of the above, you may park in the school grounds.			

Confessions in Holy Week	
Saturday 28 March	08h30
Tuesday 31 March	10h00
Good Friday 3 April (Park in the School grounds)	10h00 Stations of the Cross followed by confessions
	15h00 The Lord's Passion followed by confessions
Saturday 4 April	No Confessions